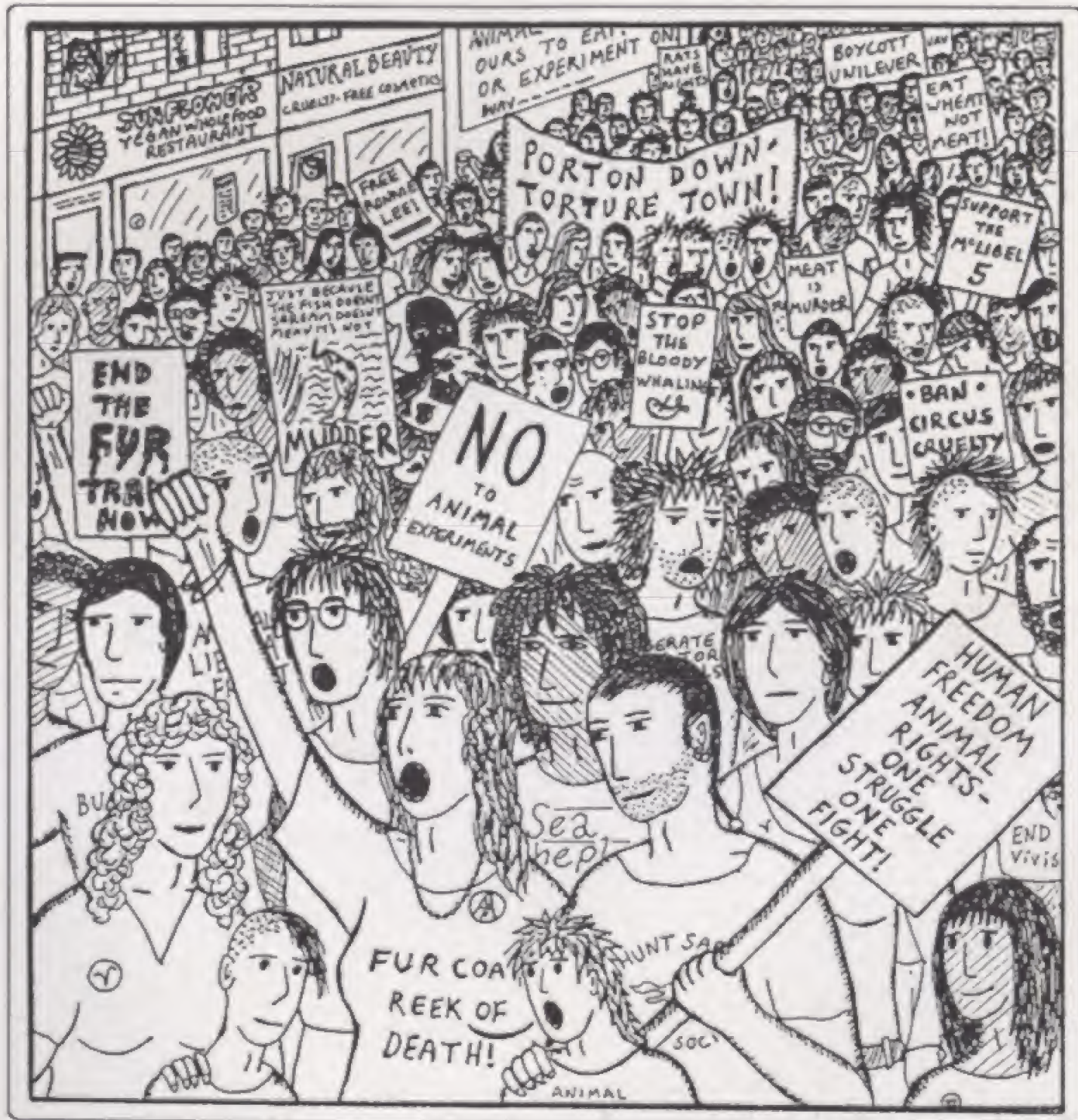


ARK ANGEL

for animal liberation



COMMON CAUSE ISSUE

No. 7

Spring 92

£1.50

ARKANGEL IS BACK!

After something of a delay, at last we are able to bring you the latest edition of Arkangel. Perhaps we'd better start by telling you something of what has happened to the magazine since issue 5 appeared almost a year ago...



You might be wondering why this is Issue 7 when you haven't seen Issue 6 yet. Well, Issue 6 was just about ready for publication when Viv, editor, typist, compiler, etc., was arrested (for something unconnected with her work on Arkangel). She is now languishing in Holloway prison and would love to hear from you - as would all the other animal rights prisoners (see elsewhere in the magazine for information). Not surprisingly, the police took the opportunity to seize the magazine, the mailing lists, office equipment, and so on. If you need further evidence that their intention was to put an end to Arkangel; they confiscated not the whole word processor - just the keyboard! If you sent an article to us and it's not in this issue at least you know that someone has read it!

Luckily, one very early copy of the subscribers list escaped the round-up. A certain person has painstakingly copied out the list by hand and has managed to get it to us! Unfortunately, the list is very out of date and incomplete, so if this copy wasn't posted to you please write and tell us.

So who are we? Of course our names aren't important, but we have the full support of both of the previous editors, and we see ourselves as "caretakers" for the next few months. We believe it's vital that Arkangel continues, because in its short lifetime the magazine's philosophy and style has become uniquely important to the animal rights movement.

We intend to continue in much the same way. Our policy is to promote unity in the movement and to keep people informed. We provide a platform for anyone who has anything meaningful to say on the subject of animal rights. While we maintain the "no censorship" policy, we cannot print anything blatantly inciting, or where the purpose is clearly to further some political or other "non-animal" end.

Please understand that this issue has been put together under quite difficult conditions, not the least being a lack of material! We urgently need articles to provoke thought and action, and we want information about what you or your group are doing. And we also need new subscribers because we haven't got much money! Subscription is £6.00 for four issues.

Finally, a plea to the high-tech writers amongst you. If you type your articles on a word processor or a computer, and if you can send the text on a 3.5in disk in either MS-DOS or AmigaDos in ASCII format, we would be extremely grateful!

NATIONAL GROUPS



ANIMAL AID & ADVICE

ANIMAL AID & ADVICE
081 889 9714

Aims to encourage responsible pet "ownership" and neutering of cats and dogs. The society also re-homes homeless animals.

ANIMAL AID
7 CASTLE STREET, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN9 1BH

Campaigns against all forms of animal abuse and distributes the "Humane Research" donor cards - available on request.



Illustr.: D. Hine

**ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATION
UNIT**

PO BOX 8, HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK, IP19 0JL

The group's aim is to investigate animal abuse and to see offenders prosecuted.



**ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT
(SUPPORTERS GROUP)**
BCM 1160, LONDON, WC1N 3XX

Their newsletter provides information about the arrest and imprisonment of alleged animal rights activists. They raise funds to help pay fines and to pay towards the travelling expenses of relatives making prison visits. They also pay for books, cruelty-free toiletries and other needs of prisoners.

**ANIMAL LIBERATION INVESTIGATION
UNIT**

PO BOX 87, ROCHDALE, LANCASHIRE,
OL16 1AA

Started a nationwide campaign against Boots and have produced an excellent video "Animal Liberation - The Movie" - available for £8.

ANIMAL RESCUE
PO BOX 8, WIDNES, WA8 0FX

Following a successful campaign to have Liverpool Council become the first to vote to end dissection in local schools, they are continuing to get letters asking for details. If you start a similar campaign please let them know how you get on.



Hedgehog

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

BRITISH HEDGEHOG PRESERVATION SOCIETY

KNOWBURY HOUSE, KNOWBURY, LUDLOW,
SHROPSHIRE. 0584 890287

Raises awareness about the protection of hedgehogs
and is in need of funds!



CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANGLING
PO BOX 130, SEVENOAKS, KENT, TN14 5NR

Produces regular newsletter "Piscis", and badges, T-shirts and leaflets. Membership is £4 per year.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LEATHER & FUR (CALF)
BM 8889, LONDON, WC1N 3XX



Distributes literature about leather, fur, wool and silk. Sells T-shirts, badges and stickers.

CAMPAIGN TO END FRAUDULENT MEDICAL RESEARCH
PO BOX 302, LONDON, N8 9HD

Have produced excellent leaflets detailing animal torture and scientific fraud.

CAPTIVE ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY
0273 737756

Activities include attempts to prevent the use or exploitation of captive and performing animals.

CARE FOR THE WILD
0293 871596

Produces a magazine and sells merchandise to raise funds to help dolphins and other wild animals.

Fox Cubs



FOX CUBS
PO BOX 87, EXETER, EX4 3TX

A branch of the Hunt Saboteurs Association for children aged 7-14. Membership is £2 per year.



**FREEDOM ANIMAL SANCTUARY
TRUST**

*12B DUDLEY ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT,
TN1 1LF*

Desperately in need of funds to re-home animals and to realise the long-term aim of creating a sanctuary. Sells merchandise including a wide range of T-shirts. (Nice people!)

FLAMINGO LAND DOLPHIN CAMPAIGN
PO BOX 11, SEDO, MANCHESTER, M18 8GU

Demonstrates against Flamingo Land and their dolphinarium. 80 people took part in a picket last year after FL employees attacked and injured campaigners on a previous picket. Write if you are able to help with their campaign to return the dolphins to their proper home - the ocean.

**FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE
CENTRE**

*EAST LODGE FARM, EAST LANE, INCE
BLUNDELL, LIVERPOOL, L29 3EA. 051 931 1604*

The sanctuary desperately needs funds to look after the 90 dogs, 70 cats, 50 rabbits, 11 goats and sheep, and dozens of hens, ducks and turkeys. Help is also needed.

HOPEFIELD ANIMAL SANCTUARY
081 590 6273

Always in need of help and funds to maintain the

sanctuary. Holds open days and produces a newsletter. Phone for further details.

HUMANE INFORMATION
*PO BOX 47, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA,
EAST SUSSEX, TN38 0FT*

Produces an excellent leaflet explaining what drives some people to carry out direct actions. 100 leaflets for £2.25.



HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 1, CARLTON, NOTTINGHAM, NG4 2JY

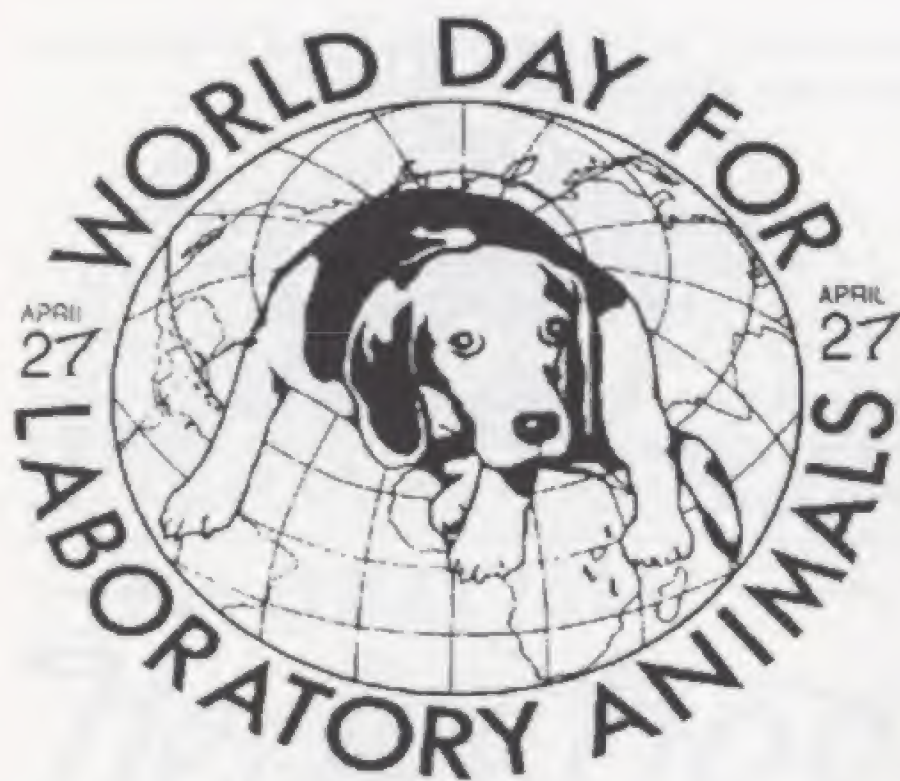
For information about forming a hunt sab group, provides speakers for talks, gives legal advice, and produces an excellent magazine "Howl".

LONDON BOOTS ACTION GROUP
*c/o ALARA, 58 SEVEN SISTERS ROAD, LONDON,
N7 6AA*

Nearly 100 people attended their inaugural meeting on November 19th and demonstrations have been held every Saturday in London since. Despite police intimidation, tens of thousands of leaflets have been handed out. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at *6 ENDSLEIGH STREET, LONDON WC1* at 7.30 pm. There will be a nationwide day of action against Boots on June 20th to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the first ALF raid on their labs! People are urged to picket their local branches of Boots.

**MOVEMENT FOR COMPASSIONATE
LIVING (THE VEGAN WAY)**
47 HIGHLANDS ROAD, SURREY, KT22 8NQ

Produces magazine "New Leaves". £3.00 per year subscription.



NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY

RAVENSIDE, 261 GOLDHAWK ROAD, LONDON,
W12 9PE. 081 846 9777

Produce a wide range of literature and merchandise, and organise the World Day for Laboratory Animals march and rally - this year on 27th April. Tens of thousands of people demonstrated last year.



NICHE

NICHE
0786 73171

The Network of Individuals and Campaigns for Humane Education. A symposium "Animals and Education" is organised for 4th April 1992. Phone for further details.



PETWATCH

PO BOX 16, BRIGHOUSE, WEST YORKSHIRE,
HD6 1DS

Warns people to be on the alert for suspicious adverts which may be a cover for pet thieves. Produces leaflets and a newsletter.

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

PO BOX 96, NORTHAMPTON, NN5 5JT

Produces newsletter giving details of those arrested/imprisoned for animal liberation actions. Also sells merchandise including T-shirts and badges. Donations, however small, are welcome.

SEA SHEPHERD

PO BOX 5, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX, TW15 2PY.
0784 254846

Invaluable organisation which campaigns against the abuse of marine life. The UK branch has a major inland campaign against Windsor Safari Park dolphinarium.

They are now the proud owners of two sea-going vessels, and they produce a regular news-sheet.

Sea Turtle Survival



SEA TURTLE SURVIVAL

PO BOX 790, LONDON, SW16 3NJ. 081 764 9186

Formed in 1990 to promote awareness of the plight of turtles throughout the world.

TURNING POINT

THE ANIMAL RIGHTS MAGAZINE

TURNING POINT MAGAZINE
PO BOX 45, NORTHOLT, MIDDLESEX, UB5 6SZ

Excellent animal rights magazine. Subscription £5.



VEGAN SOCIETY
7 BATTLE ROAD, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA,
EAST SUSSEX, TN37 7AA

Produces leaflets, regular magazine, and "Cruelty-Free Shopper", as well as an extensive range of merchandise.

VEGFAM
"THE SANCTUARY", NR. LYDFORD,
OKEHAMPTON, DEVON, EX20 4AL.
082 282 203 / 0462 456294

For nearly 30 years Vegfam has been working with and influencing charities to carry out projects which do not exploit animals. Please write for more information.



VEGETARIAN SOCIETY
PARKDALE, DUNHAM ROAD, ALTRINGHAM,
CHESHIRE, WA14 4QG. 061 928 0793

Produces Vegetarian Handbook and Travel Guide, and sells a variety of merchandise. Members receive regular magazine.

VEGGIES
c/o 180 MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM,
NG1 3HU

Veggies Catering Campaign is available to provide tasty vegan snacks at animal rights events. Also produce posters and other merchandise.

ZOO CHECK
CHERRY TREE COTTAGE, COLDHARBOUR,
DORKING, SURREY, RH5 6HA. 0306 713431

Campaigns against the abuse of animals in zoos.

Local Animal Rights Groups

BARNSLEY NAVS *(Contact NAVS for local address)*

Set up in November 1991 to campaign in all areas of Animal Rights. Received write-ups in three local newspapers and had an interview on local radio. First stall raised £200, they now hold stalls regularly. Public meetings are planned, plus anti-Boots leafletting.

BIRMINGHAM ANIMAL AID **3 GEORGE STREET, BALSALL HEATH,** **B12 9RG**

October 1991 - gave a talk at Birmingham University. November 1991 - picketed the Moscow State Circus at New Arena. There were 80 at the demo on the first night.

COVENTRY ANIMAL ALLIANCE

Organised a public debate on the ALF.

BOGNOR & CHICHESTER ACTION FOR ANIMALS

A member appeared in a documentary by TVS about the unlawful arrest of hunt sabs. They gave a talk to a local WI group who gave a donation for badger protection and some CB's to help in this. Ten days previously, members of a local college leafletted Bognor with anti-turkey slaughter leaflets.

CUMBRIA ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP

Have set up several public meetings, a talk on vivisection, and have picketed outside Boots.

EAST DEVON ANIMAL RIGHTS

Have held several stalls. They also held a demo in Exeter in November to protest against the start of the foxhunting season.

EAST LONDON ANIMAL RIGHTS **PO BOX 216, FOREST GATE, LONDON, E7 9RB**

Are attracting new members as public interest and awareness increases. They are taking part in a new campaign against vivisection at the London Hospital.

HACKNEY & ISLINGTON ANIMAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN **c/o ALARA, 58 SEVEN SISTERS ROAD, LONDON,** **N7 6AA**

An active campaigning group that holds regular leafletting and protests against animal abuse.

HAVERING ACTION FOR ANIMALS

Just before Christmas went carol singing in aid of a local dog sanctuary. Also had a leafletting session.

HERNE BAY & WHITSTABLE ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP **0227 364262**

Meets on the first Monday of the month. An active group that campaigns in all areas of animal rights and which has had a good deal of coverage recently on local television and radio. On 1st February, about 25 members handed a petition to the Canterbury MP, Julian Brazier, urging him to support the McNamara Bill. A lively and heated debate followed, but the 'traditional rural fun' - loving Mr Brazier would not be swayed. Still, the local press were present in force, so at least his unfounded and out-dated views have been exposed to the voters.

HERTFORDSHIRE ANIMAL RIGHTS CHARTER CAMPAIGN **PO BOX 66, BROXBORNE, HERTS, EN10 6LU.** **(0426 911785)**

Are setting up a hunt sab group and have succeeded in having foxhunting banned on North Herts District Council land following an extensive campaign. They also received local radio coverage concerning the adoption of the group's animal rights charter.

HOWNSLOW & TWICKENHAM ANIMAL DEFENCE GROUP

Putting pressure on all local "Pet Shop" animal dealers to clean up their act. They are running a campaign to make all local hairdressers aware of L'Oreal's animal experiments. Raised £100 at a Christmas Without Cruelty fair at Ealing in early December.



LONDON GREENPEACE
5 CALEDONIAN ROAD, LONDON, NI

Held their Annual Fayre last autumn in London and about 50 people attended the Animal Liberation Workshop. In November they held an Anti-McDonalds march from Euston, through Parliament Square, to Victoria. About 500 people took part.

LOUGHBOROUGH ANIMAL CONCERN
0509 239352

Organising a demo against Fisons, Loughborough on 2nd May. Assemble at Southfields Playing Fields at 1pm for a 2pm start. There will be food, stalls and speakers.

LOWESTOFT & DISTRICT ANIMAL AID
PO BOX 22, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, NR33 8LA

Suffolk County Council posted a partial ban on hunting on their land following a campaign by the group. Good attendances at both the adult and the youth group meetings. The youth group is continuing to flourish and two new school groups have been set up. In December, the youth group had a talk by local wildlife hospital reps. The group intends to start a big local campaign against intensive farms in the area.

MANCHESTER ETHICAL RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

Set up recently to campaign against animal experiments at Manchester University. Has the support of BUAV.

NORWICH ANIMAL CHARTER
PO BOX 30, NORWICH, NORFOLK, NR1 4DT

They had a good response to their day of leafletting against L'Oreal in early October. Later that month they leafletted against the export of live animals. In November they did two days of leafletting in support of the Manifesto for Animals, and they organised an "Animal Rights Workshop" at a local school. They are continuing to campaign against the local cattle market.

MILTON KEYNES ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP
0908 609647

Would like readers of Arkangel to check if their local Trust House Forte hotels offer their guests trips to hunt meets on Boxing Day. Please phone MKARG with any information.

Letter just received!...

...readers who live in Bucks are asked to write to the address given below urging Bucks County Council to support the motion to ban bloodsports (hunting with hounds) on council land. The motion has been proposed by Ian Watts and is to be debated by the full council on 27th February.

The address is :

*Mr Farrant, Estates Officer, Bucks County Council,
County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1YH*

There will be a picket of the council meeting at 10am Thursday 27th February until 11am when meeting

starts. People are needed to attend this picket.

PS. The picket of our local Trust House Forte Hotel, which takes guests to Boxing Day Hunt meets, was successful - no more trips to meets are on the agenda!

SHEFFIELD CAMPAIGN FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

PO BOX 407, SHEFFIELD, S1 1ED

Held an anti-McDonalds demo in October, and ran a stall at the Sheffield Vegan Society Christmas Cruelty-Free Fayre.

SHEFFIELD NAVS

In October, about 1000 people attended a march organised by the group. They received plenty of publicity. They also held a demo against Boots on the same day. In December, they held a vigil against animal experiments outside Sheffield University Psychology Department.

SKEGNESS ANIMAL AID

Held a Christmas Fayre to raise funds for their Animal Rescue Centre.

SOUTHEND ANIMAL AID

In the autumn they carried out a successful local campaign against Gandey's Circus.

SOUTH LONDON ANIMAL AID

PO BOX 594. LONDON, SW9 8QG

An active group which campaigns against all forms of animal abuse. Their Christmas Cruelty-Free Fayre in Brixton attracted over 1000 people, including the Mayor and area's Euro-MP.

STEVENAGE ANIMAL RIGHTS

*BOX 6, BOWES LYON HOUSE, ST. GEORGE'S WAY, STEVENAGE, HERTS, SG1 1XY.
(0438 359424)*

The group organised a protest outside SmithKline Beecham's laboratory in Welwyn Garden City in January 92 as part of the National Anti-Vivisection Society's campaign "Free The Beagles".



STEVENAGE ANIMAL RIGHTS

SWINDON ANIMAL WELFARE ALLIANCE

PO BOX 134, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE, SN2 3AF

In November, the group held a protest outside Gerry Cottle's Circus. They received a good deal of publicity, including local radio interviews.

WINCHESTER ANIMAL RIGHTS

Did a sponsored walk in October to raise funds. The response was excellent.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR
GROUP MENTIONED IN
ARKANGEL,
WRITE TO US AT**

**ARKANGEL
BCM 9240
LONDON WC1N 3XX**



Sabbing News



Hill."

Good. Perhaps the message is getting through that violence breeds violence.

But with such a successful season behind us, the big question was could we maintain our momentum? What would happen over the summer months? Briefly, the answers were "Yes" and "Lots of sabbing". Those of you in a rush can skip the rest of this section. Those who want to know more, read on...

Minkhunting

Minkhunts are one of the easiest bloodsports to sabotage, and in consequence they try the hardest to avoid sabs. Years of attention have now ensured that most minkhunts are suspicious of newcomers, and

from the HSA

L a s t season was the best the HSA has had for as long as most of us can remember. (And also, I need hardly add, the most tragic.) Hunts all over the UK were under serious and regular pressure. We expected two or three to close down; in the event the final tally was five closed, and two amalgamated. (In addition to the ones mentioned in Arkangel 5, the Wigtownshire FH in Scotland has also admitted defeat, citing "lack of interest" as the cause. Scotland now has the same number of foxhunts as Tory MPs, i.e. not many.) To counter sab's success, many hunts had resorted to violence: most were treated to shows of strength of considerable proportions. As the Surrey Union's internal newsletter put it: "None of us present that day will ever forget the terrible events on Holmbury



Sabs paddling at Ytene. Photo Simon Wild



Saboteur arrested at Ytene, Hants. He was held in a police van for over 3 hours before being released without charge.

Photo Simon Wild.

The summer began with five Plymouth sabs attending a joint meet of the Devon and Cornwall, the Culmstock, and the Ytene. Badly outnumbered, sabbing had to be broken off before the sabs were, but no kills were reported while the sabs were there. This opening proved to be an exception on two counts: firstly because the hunt outnumbered the sabs, and secondly because they actually hunted. The summer was to be marked by increasing numbers of cancelled meets.

Next was the Ytene. An army of sabs dissuaded them from venturing out of the farm, and the sabs whiled away the day sunbathing, playing football, and cheering whenever Rose "Lovely" Whitcombe, joint master, showed her face. (Hard to identify from other parts of her anatomy, admittedly.)

That was the trickle that started the flood. The Ytene, the Devon and Cornwall, the Culmstock, and the Northants were all soon receiving regular attention. The Ytene changed hunting days (abandoning Saturdays and Wednesdays, then going back to Saturdays for 6.30am meets, then changing again). The Culmstock abandoned hunting except for occasional bye-days. The Northants were confined to kennels by the sabs outside. The Four Shires turned tails and hot-footed it back to the meet just on sight of sabs. The Dove Valley discovered the meaning of cruelty-free living when sabs ensured no kills for them.

Best of all, though, we were still hard at it in August, contrary to past experience. The hunts had been trying all the usual tricks, but to no avail. 'Hounds' magazine saw fit to advise its readers: "The

are prepared to juggle meets at short notice. In consequence, summer sabbing usually tails off after a couple of months.

This year was different. The HSA announced a summer offensive against minkhunts, with more information and organisational backing available than in previous years. Many more groups were aware of minkhunt meets, and because the campaign was better coordinated, groups were able to travel further afield. The result was two-fold: more minkhunts were sabbed, and more sabs were present at particular meets.

minkhound packs have had several strikes by dangerous and very mobile saboteurs. All hunt followers ought to be reminded about necessity to double check on dubious enquiries about meets". Aside from "dangerous", we couldn't have put it better ourselves.

Angling

More good news came with the start of the course fishing season. The Campaign for the Abolition of Angling has re-emerged as a force to be reckoned with, and the old alliance between the HSA and the CAA has been renewed. The "anti-angling day" of years gone by was resurrected and transformed into a week-long event. More information, as with minkhunting, prompted more action: demos and sabs took place all over the UK. Irish groups were particularly active (due to a lack of minkhunts). Yorkshire sabs covered matches and also sent

individual anglers home when their minkhunt didn't materialise, as did some southern sabs searching for the Ytene. The latter also developed the novel tactic of using an amphibious beatline in sufficiently shallow rivers!

Another trail-blazing event occurred in West London with the first recorded sab inside Metropolitan Police territory. The result was perhaps predictably over-the-top policing, with six sabs arrested, and the others escaping by dint of some hard exercise. The match itself was totally disrupted for as long as sabs were present. Two of the six sabs were subsequently acquitted, and four convicted. All four are appealing.

Grouse-shooting

August 12th was something of a surprise this year: the whole mystique seems to be fading away. The normal "grouse parachuted into restaurant" stories

Huntsman, having lost his horse, wonders if he ought to give angling a try. Unusually astute terrier man thinks 'What a prat'



were nowhere to be seen, and even the usually cynical Guardian covered the event seriously (in spite of a ludicrous sabs = indians, shooters = cowboys comparison). Even references to the Twelfth as "Glorious" seemed few and far between.

Actual grouse shoot sabbing was pretty much as per usual: sabs occupied various moors, and prevented shooting from taking place. This sounds mundane (and often is, on the day) but one day of grouse-shoot sabbing saves more lives than a whole season of foxhunts.

The Twelfth is a nationwide effort by the HSA, with groups from as far afield as Ireland and Southern England travelling to the grouse moors. When the great day is past, however, it is up to the locals, and the Yorkshire sabs have been out every weekend since. And now that cubbing is under way in Yorkshire they notch up a cubhunt in the morning and a grouse shoot in the afternoon.

Shires Week

August saw the HSA holding another week of action, this time directed against the country's best (?) foxhunts. These hunts kill phenomenal numbers of foxes, particularly during cubhunting. They are also reckoned to be the most prestigious hunts in the country, and it seemed about time to take them down a peg or two, and show them the meaning of hound control.

Monday saw sabs out against the Quorn's opening cubbing meet. Within minutes of arriving, sabs had pulled hounds out of covert and disappeared into the morning mist. This set the tone for the rest of the day, with the huntsman losing control of his hounds whenever he loitered in one place for too long. The assembled supporters were not best pleased, and there were several scuffles. No sabs were injured, but we were treated to the spectacle of a rider trying to knock down a sab and flattening a supporter instead.

On Tuesday sabs attended the Belvoir, and successfully stopped a dig-out. On the negative side one sab needed hospital treatment after being hit in the face.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent in the company of old favourites the Cottesmore. This hunt obviously haven't

yet learnt that violence breeds violence, and there were several attacks on sabs. Several people on both sides required hospital treatment, and the police are investigating the incidents. Arkangel sends its deepest sympathies to the new Cottesmore whipper-in, Gary Williams, who spent 36 hours in hospital.

The next two days were quieter, at the Belvoir and the South Notts. In all, six hunts were sabbed, who would expect to kill up to six cubs per outing - in the event, the tally for the week was three: three too many, of course, but a substantial achievement in the face of violence from the hunt and attention from the police. The week was rounded off by the discovery that the Quorn had cancelled cubbing for a fortnight: the gift of life for numerous foxes and foxcubs.

The final treat, though, was Horse and Hound the following week: "Saboteurs from all over Britain formed a hit squad which attempted unsuccessfully to interfere with hunting with the Quorn, Cottesmore, and Belvoir during cubhunting last week". Unsuccessfully? Dream on.

Northumberland Beagling Festival

Next on the agenda was the Northumberland Beagling Festival. For the uninitiated, this sick event is a gathering of beaglers and beagle packs from all over the UK, during which they spend two weeks savouring the joys of killing hares. This isn't what the general public would understand by the word



"festival" of course, but what can you expect from weirdos who think killing is a sport?

Not that there was much sport to be had this year. Sabs attended a record nine out of twelve days, covering a total of 20 hunts. Support for the visiting packs was dwindling by the last day of the festival, and the final hunt was cancelled.

One of the depressing things about sabotaging beagle packs is their tendency to "riot" after rabbits. There is nothing sabs can do about this, since the rabbit either escapes or is killed within seconds, but for us an animal's life is of equal worth, quarry or not. Northumberland seemed to be filled with rabbits this year, and four were killed, as compared with only three hares, the intended quarry. (One huntsman tried to tell his supporters that one of the rabbits was a hare - desperate or what?)

The week was also notable for very reasonable policing. Several hunt supporters may be facing charges this year, and the tally of sab arrests was down. There were no serious incidents of violence, and we're all looking forward to next year.

Cubhunting

As I write, the cubhunting season is almost over. It's been an interesting season so far, with many hunts avoiding Saturdays like the plague, and very few advertising their meets. Approximately 50 packs have seen sabs, with varying frequency. Some have only been hit once or twice, while others have barely been out without sabs in attendance. With our best summer for years just over, and with a good cubhunting season coming to a close, this year looks likely to be an excellent one. With your help, it will be.



Late News - HSA Bingo

Forget the Sun / Mirror / Express / Mail 'get rich quick' bingo! The HSA is running a far better scheme. All you have to do is join up, get arrested, sue the police, and - bingo! You're rich. Winners so far:

First Prize: Bournemouth / New Forest sabs!

Readers of Arkangel will remember that in March 1990 followers of the South Dorset FH overturned a car containing several local sabs. (For which two hunt supporters have been successfully prosecuted.) A device was subsequently found in or near a shop belonging to a member of the hunt. Dorset police did a stunning piece of detective work arrested the sabs. Eat your heart out Hercule Poirot. The sabs sued for unlawful arrest, etc., and the police have settled out of court, to the tune of £14000.

Second Prize: West London and Oxford sabs!

One thing you need to be a police officer is a sense of proportion. Thames Valley Police displayed that and other fine qualities in November 1989, when they arrested all the sabs they could catch, partly with the aid of a low-flying helicopter. Unlike their country colleagues, Thames Valley Police didn't have the decency to pay up before the case, so now they're stuck with court costs too. The £12000 was awarded in varying sums to nine sabs from the two groups. Rumour has it that this season they'll be wearing t-shirts saying: "Sponsored by Thames Valley Police".

Joint Third Prize: West London sabs!

Two West London sabs have been awarded £500 each from separate incidents, one in Hampshire and one in Leicestershire. Two of the country's most notorious forces wisely settled out of court. As one Hampshire copper bleakly commented: "£500 for an hour in custody? Not a bad rate of pay". Better than police overtime, anyway!

Fifth Prize: Merseyside

sabs!

In the aftermath of the Cheshire Beagles Riot charges, many sabs were on bail conditions not to attend hunts. Cheshire police duly arrested two sabs for breach of bail! Forty-five minutes in custody provided the sabs with £250 each in an out of court settlement.

Who's next? Seriously though, the way most police forces treat sabs is absolutely appalling, and I'm sure we're all glad to see them on the receiving end of British justice for a change. No one should be arrested for trying to save animals from a horrendous death, and money alone cannot compensate for it. (But it helps.)

More late news!

The following report has been sent to us from Oxford Hunt Saboteurs:

POLICE PAY HUNT SABOTEURS £22000 : SECOND COMPENSATION PAY-OUT IN A MONTH.

Only a month after Thames Valley Police were ordered to pay hunt saboteurs £12000 damages, they have caved in on a second case involving wrongful arrest and unlawful imprisonment of hunt saboteurs. The case arose after saboteurs from Newbury and Oxford held a peaceful banner demonstration against bloodsports at the Oxford County Show on Sunday June 17th 1990. Eleven saboteurs were arrested and held overnight at St. Aldates police station, Oxford. The next morning at Oxford Magistrates' Court all eleven refused to be bound over as they felt they had done nothing to warrant such action. Their stand was vindicated in August 1990 when the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to pursue the case.

However, the saboteurs felt that such arbitrary arrests and imprisonment could not go unchallenged, so they launched legal action against Thames Valley Police for wrongful arrest and unlawful imprisonment. They had, after all, been arrested and detained for over 18 hours for no good reason, without so much as an apology from the police. The case against the police,

conducted for the saboteurs by John Mackenzie, was due to be heard at Oxford County Court on 25th November 1991. However, only a week before it was due to start, the police decided to back down and pay a total of £22000 into the court. They also agreed to pay costs, estimated to be in the region of £30000...

...surely now they must admit something is very wrong - a police force that pays out over £170000 in a month for unlawful actions cannot claim to have "got the balance right". We urge them once again to reconsider their policy very carefully and to ask serious questions of the senior officers who sanctioned both mass arrests.

As long as animals are persecuted for sport, hunt saboteurs will be active in the field using non-violent and legal tactics to save lives. We will not be deterred by unlawful actions, whether by police or hunt, aimed at bullying us into abandoning that campaign.

ARKANGEL

For information about animal rights campaigns, news about actions of animal liberation and protection, inspiring ideas and constructive advice on how to help animals, interesting articles by animal rights campaigners and lively debate and comments from all points of view in the animal movement, a round up of victories large and small, and a positive, united approach to all forms of activity to help animals ... **ARKANGEL** is the magazine.

A year's subscription is £8. For a free sample back issue just send a 38p stamp.

If you're pro animal, you'll be glad you subscribed to **ARKANGEL**.

ARKANGEL,
BCM 9240,
LONDON
WC1N 3XX



Animal Rights Prisoners

Hassen Sadelli
Prison St Paul
33 Ers Suchet
69272
Lyon
France

(Letters in French please)

Barry Horne
HD 2665
HM Prison
Millers Park
Doddington Road
Wellingborough
Northants
NN8 2NH

Michael Shannahan
HD 2664
HM Prison
Stocken
Stockenhall Road
Stretton
Nr Oakham
Leicestershire

Ronnie Lee
VO 2682 LB2
Clyde
HMP Channings Wood
Denbury
Newton Abbott
Devon

(You can send an SAE)

Simon Russell
ND 2666
Lakes Wing
HM Prison
The Mount
Molyneaux Avenue
Bovington
Hemel Hempstead
HP3 0NZ

(You can send a SAE)

The following prisoners are
on remand:

John Hughes
DW 0394
B Wing
HM Prison Liverpool
69 Hornby Street
Walton
Liverpool

(You can send a SAE)

Rhian Thomas
FV 2387
HM Prison Newhall
Dial Wood
Flockton
Wakefield
West Yorkshire

(You can send a SAE)

Alastair Howson
Home Office Cells
Police Station
Beechwell Street
Chesterfield
Derbyshire

(You can send a SAE)

David Nelson
8030
HM Prison Crumlin Road
Belfast
BT14 6AE
Northern Ireland

Vivienne Smith
TT 2743
HM Prison Holloway
Parkhurst Road
London
N7 0NU

(You can send a SAE)

Keith Mann
NE 0316
HM Prison Longport
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 1PJ

(You can send a SAE)

Thanks to the ALF Supporters Group for the addresses. For further information about prisoners and what you can do to help, contact the ALFSG or SARP. See National Groups section for addresses.

Please remember that letters to prisoners are opened, read and censored - so don't get them, or yourself, into trouble!

International News

Antarctica

A £5.8 million operation to remove debris and toxic waste from American bases has started, following criticism from environmental groups (The Times, 1-10-91).

Canada

Trapping statistics show a 70% decline in animals pelted, and a 66% decline in revenue since winter '87-'88. 990775 animals (worth £10 million) were pelted in '89-'90, down from 3.3 million (worth £30 million) in '87-'88 (Animal's Agenda, October 91).

Only one-third of the official quota of 186000 harp and hooded seals were killed in eastern Canada in 1990 because of it being unprofitable (Daily Telegraph, 5-10-91).

Indonesia

The Governor of Bali has ordered hotels and restaurants to stop selling meals made from endangered sea turtles (Animal's Agenda, October 91).

Italy

To combat the abandoning of dogs, a new law has been adopted requiring all dogs to be licensed and tattooed with identification marks. There are also heavy fines for ill-treating or abandoning dogs and for collecting them for vivisection (Animal's Agenda, Oct 91).

In 1991, the Italian authorities made greater efforts to enforce laws against the killing of birds and the slaughter was drastically reduced, especially in Calabria where hunters were forced to abandon the huts they use for shooting (The Times, 12-10-91).

Japan

According to an opinion poll, 63.6% of Japanese citizens say whales should be protected, not killed (Animal's Agenda, Oct 91).

South Africa

Numbers of the black rhino are increasing in South Africa, where it is being given particular attention (Daily Telegraph, 2-10-91).

South Korea

Jindo Furriers has laid off 37% of its staff, most of whom were mink farmers and fur garment makers.

The Korean government announced it would stop bleeding bears for gall following a public outcry against the practice (Animal's Agenda, Oct 91).

U.S.A.

Evans Inc., the largest U.S. fur retail chain, lost about £700000 during the first quarter of 1991.

The U.S. Interior Secretary suspended the £9 million a year wildlife and wildlife products trade with Thailand because the Thai government failed to enforce compliance with CITES.

Cowhide values fell below 1987 levels as two leading foreign buyers went bankrupt. At least one cattle trade expert blamed a worldwide trend favouring non-leather shoes.

It was predicted that dairy farmers would earn about \$3 billion less in 1991 than in 1990, with about 4500 dairy farms going out of business.

According to the magazine "Restaurant Business", U.S. salami consumption has fallen 20% in recent years, and butter and egg consumption went down 3%.

In 1990, U.S. hunting license sales were 52000 down from 1989, and in Texas over the past decade the sale of hunting licenses for doves is down 4%, pheasants down 17%, squirrels down 32%, bobwhite down 34%, and rabbits down 49%.

Euthanasia of homeless dogs and cats fell by about 40% in the U.S. between 1985 and 1990 because of spay/neuter campaigns.

New Jersey has banned the sale of wild-caught exotic birds.

Hudson, New Hampshire has banned the use of steel-jawed leg-hold traps.

Pigeon poisoning has been halted in Evanston,



Illinois following a campaign against it and the Illinois state legislature has passed a bill banning human vs animal fighting, including bear wrestling and bullfighting.

The Famous-Barr Co. of St. Louis discontinued fur sales after repeated protests by the local A/R group (all above: Animal's Agenda, Oct 91).

Hunters were banned from shooting grizzly bears in the Montana Rockies for this winter at least when a judge in Washington issued injunctions halting a government-licensed trophy hunt of grizzlies (Daily Telegraph, 5-10-91).

In January 92, A/R activists chained themselves

to one car and wrecked another at the Baltimore motor show in protest at the use of animals in crash and toxicity tests.

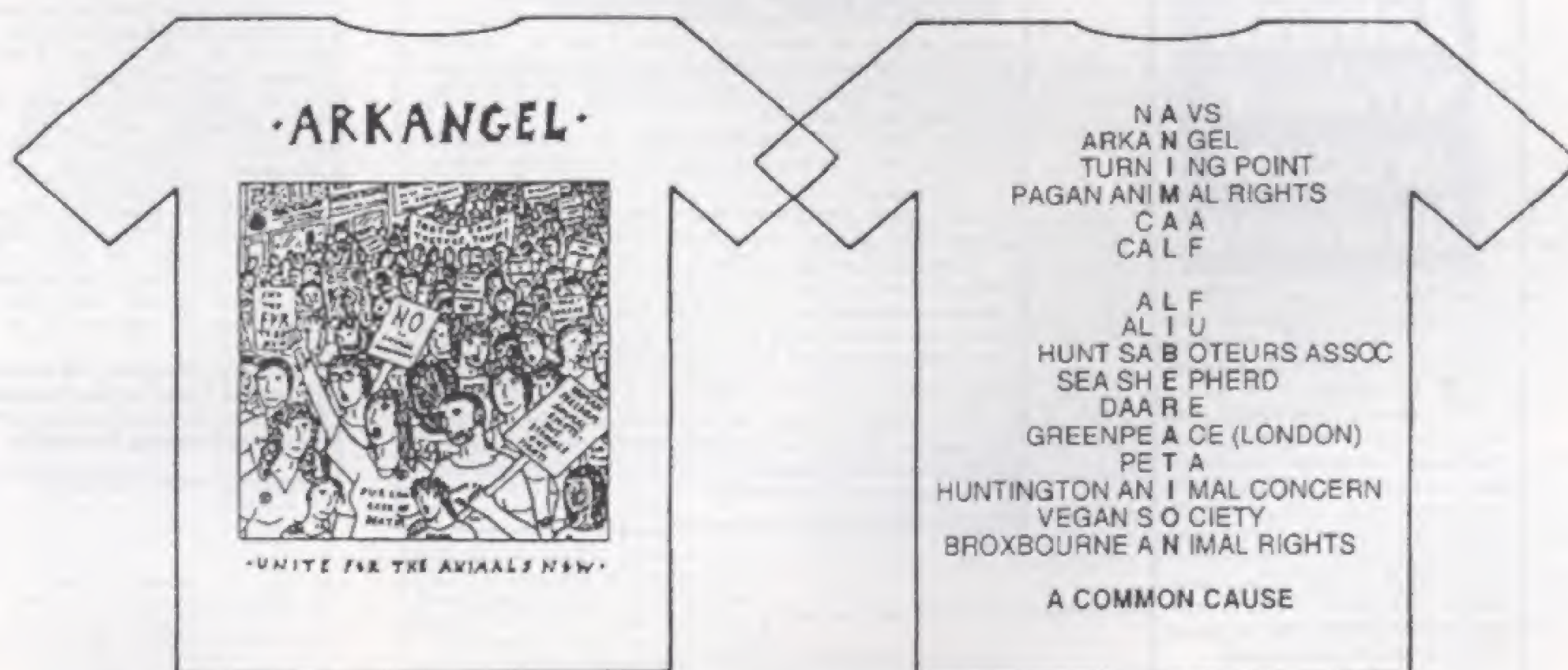
Venezuela

The daily newspaper "El Nacional" found in a reader survey that 75% believed the U.S.A. was justified in banning imports of Venezuelan tuna to protect dolphins (Animal's Agenda, Oct 91).

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwean rangers have killed more than 100 poachers since 1985 (Animal's Agenda, Oct 91).

T-Shirts



Arkangel T-Shirts

Two different designs are available, a gold coloured T-shirt with the picture from the cover of Issue 5, and a white 'UNITE FOR THE ANIMALS NOW' T-shirt as above. They are available in XL only and cost £6 each.

CALF T-Shirt

'ANIMAL LIBERATION - A COMMON CAUSE' is picked out in red, the other letters are in black. L and XL sizes are available, both cost £6 from the Campaign Against Leather & Fur, BM 8889, London, WC1N 3XX.

Free Magazine!

Just send an A4 SAE and we'll send you a free back issue of Arkangel (sorry - not Number 1!)

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

A SMALL SELECTION

Pellet attacks on eight shops

THE Animal Liberation Front are thought to be behind attacks on eight shops in the area last Thursday.

The businesses, hit with pellets through their windows, included a charity shop and a greengrocers.

Butchers and betting shops were included in the night of violence and for the staff of Mawdsley Bookmakers the four marbles fired through their window was the fourth attack they have faced.

Upset with the damage caused at her shop, the manageress of Newfresh Farm Food in Charles Court in Timperley said they would pay repair bills themselves rather than face increased premiums by claiming on insurance.

The shop is predominantly a greengrocers although they do stock a selection of cooked meats.

The Imperial Cancer Research Shop in Stamford New Road in Altrincham had a pellet fired through its large front window, for the third time.

Press Officer for the fund, Mrs Susan Kiddy, said the window would cost several hundred pounds to replace. Bearing in mind that the average weekly turnover of the shop last year was £1,000 she felt that volunteers and supporters would have to work that little bit harder to achieve the same goals.

The Police could not confirm that the Animal Liberation Group were responsible for the attacks. Detective Chief Inspector Hamilton Dalziel said that enquiries were continuing.

Activists strike at produce business

ANIMAL rights activists halted supplies to a Guildford produce business, on Sunday, causing thousands of pounds' worth of damage.

Mr. David Sanders, who supplies eggs, cheese and hams to local restaurants and shops from his home in Willow Park, said his supply vehicles parked at his father's free range poultry farm in Cobham were left out of action after tyres were slashed and the bodywork smothered in paint stripper during the attack.

"Scum", "murderer" and "42 birds now free" were among the graffiti messages sprayed on vehicles, walls and on a chicken house at the farm sometime between 11 p.m. on October 12 and 8 a.m. on October 13. Those responsible also wrote the letters "ALF" with the Animal Liberation Front's insignia and threatened: "We'll be back."

Mr. David Sanders said: "If we were a battery farm we'd almost expect this to happen but as a free range farm, we're trying to do everything the public want and we're still getting visits like this."

He added that the 2,500 chickens on the farm were only kept for egg production and those freed would probably now be eaten by foxes.

Leather shop is attacked by vandals

A Wolverhampton leather furniture store was today the target of vandals for the third time in three weeks.

Bricks were hurled at several windows, cracking one, in the attack at World of Leather, Lower Stafford Street.

The store was left with a bill for £10,000 after the two previous attacks for which the Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility.

The shop's assistant manager Mrs Christine Harrison said she did not know if the animal rights group was responsible for the latest attack and could not yet estimate the cost of the damage.

Det Sgt Wayne Bernstein of Dunstall Road police, appealing for witnesses, said the incident happened during the night.

RSPCA shocker

A KEY RSPCA figure shocked the charity today by announcing his appointment as press officer to the hard-line Animal Liberation Front. But Robin Webb, new official spokesman for ALF which openly approves law-breaking to save animals, said he intended remaining on the governing council of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Mr. Webb said, "We are all travelling the same road in the same direction with animal abuse being the common enemy."

FUR SHOPS ATTACKED

An animal rights group, the Animal Liberation Front, has attacked two shops in Tel Aviv, daubing them with paint for their "needless cruelty to animals." Earlier, the underground group attacked a Tel Aviv University building housing animals used in scientific experiments.

OCTOBER 1991

Damage orgy in circus protest

ANIMAL rights activists have been blamed for thousands of pounds worth of damage to shop windows in Leigh, Atherton, Hindley and Golborne.

The action has been connected with a campaign against Gandy's Circus, which started in Leigh on Tuesday. Posters advertising the circus were, or had been, in the windows.

The police are also investigating if the attacks are linked to acid being poured onto the window of Boots Chemists, Atherton.

The attackers fired marbles or ball bearings at more than 20 windows overnight.

Supt Brian Lees, of Leigh police, said: "Although no organisation has yet claimed responsibility we believe it may have been the Animal Liberation Front."

"We also believe it is connected with the visit of Gandy's Circus."

"I have no comments to make on the purpose of the A L F or any similar organisation but I cannot condone mindless acts of violence against innocent shopkeepers."

Attacked in Railway Road, Leigh were: Moaks Travel, Ian Williams Carpets, The Journal, Atherton's butchers, CPS Store and Mawdesley's butchers.

Windows damaged in Leigh Road: Alan Prescott Plumbing, Evans newsagents, Ladbrokes betting shop, Benson's butchers, Hodge and Sons plumbers.

And in Chapel Street: Ladbrokes betting shop and Fisher's butchers.

Bolton and District Animal Rights Group denied responsibility for the attacks in a phone call to The Journal. On Tuesday they were demonstrating at the circus.

Big con claim over Lucozade

ANIMAL rights fanatics claimed yesterday they pulled off a con over infected Lucozade.

The Animal Liberation Front say they tricked police into warning that five million harmless bottles were contaminated.

The group say they have infiltrated the police's Animal Rights National Index.

And they claim one of its cells fed false information into the ARNI.

An ALF spokesman

said: "We did not immediately claim responsibility as we were concerned about the 10 innocent people arrested in dawn raids."

"But as the scheme achieved the desired effects, we decided to claim responsibility."

But a Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We are happy to stand by last week's statement - we are quite certain it was bona fide."

New ALF cell in North Down

A MAN, claiming to represent the extremist Animal Liberation Front (ALF), has told the "Spectator" that the group has set up a new 'cell' in North Down.

In a telephone call to the "Spectator" yesterday morning (Wednesday), the caller claimed that a new cell of ALF activists had been set up in the area. The move comes in response to the arrest of five people earlier this month, in connection with ALF activities.

The caller also claimed that the group was responsible for smashing windows at a Boots Chemists store, although he did not say where or when.

Yesterday's 'phone call preceded news that a key RSPCA member in England has been appointed as Press Officer for the ALF in Great Britain.

The news was revealed last night that Mr Robin Webb - a member of the governing council of the RSPCA - had officially joined the ranks of the extremist animal rights group.

Speaking this morning (Thursday) a spokeswoman for the RSPCA said Mr Webb had sat through a Society council meeting yesterday in London without mentioning his ALF appointment.

According to the spokeswoman, the revelation came last night in a story released by the Press Association in England.

In a statement to the press, the RSPCA stated: "As an organisation which works to promote kindness and prevent cruelty to animals, and uses all

lawful means to achieve these ends, the Society has explicitly and constantly condemned those individuals and organisations who break the law and use violence, no matter for what purpose."

The spokeswoman added that at an RSPCA council meeting in June, Mr Webb had seconded a resolution condemning the actions of animal rights groups which endangered life.

Last night's revelation will be discussed by the RSPCA's governing council on Monday.

TV show claims ALF cost more

ANIMAL Liberation Front attacks are costing more economic damage than the IRA, an author has claimed.

Speaking last night on a BBC news and current affairs programme Public Eye, David Henshaw said ALF attacks have been "enormously effective".

A section of the BBC2 programme investigated a number of recent ALF attacks in Northern Ireland.

Mr Henshaw, author of Animal Warfare, said the group is "doing far more economic damage to this country than the IRA, and by and large a lot of this economic damage is going unreported."

Firebugs blitz drinks factory

FIREBUGS caused a huge blaze at a Lucozade factory in Little Hulton, Salford, it was confirmed today. Although no one has admitted responsibility, the fire may be linked to an alleged animal lib plot to spike bottles of the drink because of the group's ties with animal testing.

OCTOBER 1991

NOVEMBER 1991

Animal liberators deface milk depot

ANIMAL Liberation Front initials were sprayed over eight milk floats during a raid on a Tenterden dairy depot at the weekend.

But the police and Unigate Dairy managers are mystified that the group has not come forward to claim responsibility.

At the Unigate regional head office in Aldershot, press officer Kathy Cuddihy said it had been an isolated incident: "There have not been any incidents of this sort at our other depots and so far the animal liberators have not said they did it."

She added that no animal products were processed at the Tanyard Farm depot in Rolvenden Road. It was simply used for milk

and dairy deliveries.

The floats were sprayed with "a corrosive material" and with red paint inside and outside.

Tenterden police Sgt Steve Brown said the floats' tyres had been let down and the seats were slashed.

The initials ALF were sprayed on floats and around the depot, and the windows of the office were also smeared with a corrosive substance.

Officers on patrol discovered the damage early on Sunday morning.

Staff worked throughout the day to clean up the floats, which were ready for the rounds as normal yesterday, with the usual deliveries to 3,000 customers in the area.

NEWS

DIGEST

Animal rights graffiti on local shops

TWO CIRENCESTER butchers and a burger restaurant were victims of Animal Liberation Front graffiti over the week-end.

The offenders sprayed red paint on Dewhurst Butchers in Cricklade Street, Jesse Smith Butchers in Black Jack Street and Burger Castle in Castle Street.

"We had this happen to us only a few weeks ago," said Colin Henderson, manager at Dewhurst in Cirencester.

"We've been able to get the paint off but I'm fed up with this sort of thing happening. I can't understand the people that do it."

Animal libbers target shops

ANIMAL liberation slogans have been daubed in paint on shop windows in a string of attacks in the city.

Staff turning up to work today found "Meat is Murder" slogans painted in purple and orange at Dewhurst and Judges' butchers, both on Sincil Street, off High Street.

And Boots on Lincoln's High Street was also hit by vandals claiming to be from the Animal Liberation Front.

Police said today the vandalism was attributed to the animal rights' group.

County force spokesman Sergeant Dave Picker said:

"The windows also had Alf written on them but whether they were from the group or just someone claiming to be them we do not know."

Staff at the three shops were today cleaning off the brightly coloured paint which police say should not have any lasting damage.

Future doubt

THE future of an RSPCA employee linked to the extreme Animal Liberation Front still hangs in the balance.

Activists admit to drink scare

ANIMAL activists last night admitted they were behind a drinks contamination scare which forced 5 million bottles of Lucozade off the shop shelves.

Robin Webb, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, admitted the group were behind the scare and said they had planned to warn people but were pre-empted by police action.

Lucozade's makers, SmithKline Beecham, use animals in laboratory tests for the firm's pharmaceuticals division.

Move to oust RSPCA man

ONE OF the RSPCA's top officials faces dismissal after agreeing to act as press officer for the militant Animal Liberation Front. Robin Webb, 46, of Swavesey, Cambridgeshire, serves on the ruling council of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals which has always opposed the hard-line and often illegal tactics adopted by ALF.

Arson hits Lucozade

A BLAZE at a Lucozade factory early yesterday was arson, police said.

The fire near Bolton, Lancs, comes only a month after 5,000,000 bottles had to be withdrawn from shops after police foiled an animal lib plot to spike the drink.

NOVEMBER 1991

Activist target abattoir is set to close down

CANTERBURY abattoir, hit by animal rights activists three months ago, looks likely to close in the spring.

In its place will be new offices for the South Eastern Gas Board.

SEGAS has applied for planning permission to demolish the abattoir, owned by FMC (Meat) Ltd and build a district centre to take staff from its offices in Thanet.

It said it already has a conditional purchase agreement with FMC and, if the City Council approves its application, plans to be operational within 18 months.

FMC, which is part of Hillsdown Holdings, is believed to be facing costs of over £2 million to bring the abattoir in line with EC regulations although it conforms to British standards.

But it refused to comment on its closure plans. A spokeswoman for the financial director, Alan Hewitt, said the company had a policy of not speaking to the Press.

The news has dismayed farmers and butchers who now face travelling to Charing, Lamberhurst or Guildford for slaughterhouse facilities.

They see the loss of the abattoir as a matter for regret. They say it will result in extra costs being passed down the line to shoppers and impose stress on animals forced to travel for slaughter.

And a question mark has also been put over the future of the East Kent Prime Stock Show for which carcasses have traditionally been prepared by FMC.

The show chairman, Peter Mummery, said abattoirs had to come up to EC standards which meant investing a lot of money. The Canterbury building would have to be radically rebuilt to meet them.

He said: "The effect on East Kent will be quite

devastating. It is doing away with another option for the customer. Butchers still go to Canterbury market to buy livestock and take them to FMC to be killed, but this will cease."

He was also concerned about the effect on animals due to be slaughtered for humane reasons which would have to travel further.

"If animals have to go to Lamberhurst or Guildford it is a long way for them to travel."

Bekesbourne farmer John Ash, who uses the abattoir for his spring lamb trade, said they would have to go to Charing, incurring extra cost, and Bridge butcher Laurie Wakeham said he, too, would have to use an abattoir some distance away.

He said: "I view it with dismay. It is the last one in the area. It will add to the cost. At the moment, I pay for the animals to go to the abattoir and they are then brought to me."

He said that when privately-owned slaughterhouses were closed and the council took over the abattoir, later sold to FMC, they were promised there would always be a slaughterhouse there for them.

A spokesman for the City Council said it was under no obligation to provide an abattoir.

Cllr Tom Castle, who farms at Petham, sends beef animals to be slaughtered at Broad Oak Road.

He said FMC was toying with the idea of closing. "Providing FMC are not contemplating pulling out of Kent, it will not make any difference to us," he said.

Peter Drummond, secretary of the Canterbury branch of the NFU, said the closure would mean substantial extra costs to his members which would have to be passed on.

FMC was firebombed by the Animal Liberation Front in September, causing tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Shrimpers attacked

THE Animal Liberation Front has admitted vandalising a number of shrimping rigs along a Merseyside coastline.

The animal rights activists confessed to slashing tyres and ripping electrics from the tractors of nine rigs on Formby beach in protest against the "horrific killing of fish".

It is believed a local ALF cell of three or four people was responsible for the attack and the burning of two other shrimping rigs on Ainsdale beach last week.

DECEMBER 1991

Wrong road

ADVOCATES for Animals, Animal Aid and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection all condemn the recent fire-bomb attacks by the Animal Liberation Front in Scotland.

The use of animals in medical research is an important moral issue which should be discussed openly without fear of retribution.

The only way forward is non-violent, well-informed debate between responsible people.—Les Ward (AFA), Mark Gold (AA), Steve McIvor (BUAV).

Dawn swoops

POLICE investigating firebomb attacks by animal rights terrorists have made a string of arrests in dawn swoops throughout Manchester and Merseyside. Meat producers and butchers in Stockport have been victims of Animal Liberation Front attacks on a number of occasions in the past two years.

Threat to store: Police are investigating claims that animal rights activists have "spiked" products at the Boots store in Bond Street, Leeds. The Animal Liberation Front said toiletries had been contaminated.

Terror onslaught of animal activists

Derek Douglas reports how the Animal Liberation Front has adopted terror tactics in its campaign for recognition of animal rights

THE Animal Liberation Front claims to have three undercover cells operating in Scotland and that they have been responsible for the past fortnight's firebomb and arson attacks on animal-related establishments in and around Edinburgh and further afield.

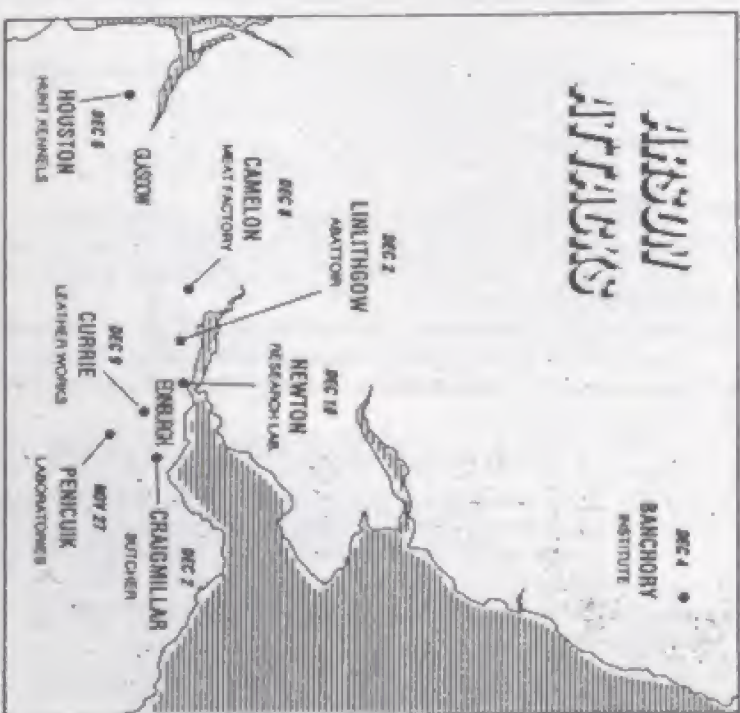
The ALF organisation — the most militant of the animal rights groupings and the one most fervently dedicated to direct action — has not claimed responsibility for the bombings in the normal way by contacting news organisations.

Instead, it chooses to publicise its activities through the medium of its "press officer", Cambridge-based Robin Webb, who yesterday maintained that there was one autonomous cell operating in the Lothian area, another in Grampian and a third in an area which he declined to specify.

He said that ALF direct-action cells operated independently without contact with each other in order to maintain security. They chose, also, not to contact him to inform him of their operations as his telephone was, in all probability, being tapped by Special Branch.

"They don't contact me because I have little doubt that my phone is bugged and it would be possible for police to identify them from voice recordings. Having said that, from all the reports that I have received of these incidents in Scotland there is no doubt that they fall within the ALF's policies and I am quite confident that they are the work of ALF."

Webb's claims come as police forces throughout the country continue to investigate the activities of this sinister wing of the animal rights movement. An undercover surveillance team, the Animal Rights National Index (ARNI) at Scotland Yard was established in 1986 in a bid to monitor the operations of animal extremists.



A year later police achieved a major coup when Ronnie Lee, one of Webb's predecessors as ALF press officer, and the movement's guru and guiding light, received a 10-year jail sentence for conspiracy to cause explosions.

There are currently 13 ALF extremists serving prison sentences, the most recently incarcerated being Michael Shanahan and Barry Horne who were each sentenced to three years on conspiracy charges at Northampton Crown Court four weeks ago. They were stopped by police while carrying incendiary devices.

Today in Dalkeith, police from Lothian and Borders, Central, Strathclyde and Grampian will stage a summit meeting in an attempt to coordinate inquiries into the unprecedented level of animal activist activity in Scotland.

Their refusal to attribute the attacks to ALF, perhaps in an attempt to deny the organisation the status and publicity it seeks, runs counter to the adamant assertion by

Webb that ALF is, indeed, responsible.

Webb, aged 46, who describes himself as an animal welfare consultant, maintains that he has never participated in any of ALF's direct-action attacks.

"I never take part, I would be very foolish to do so. If I were to be involved, then with the high profile that I have I assume I would be very quickly caught and imprisoned and not able to do the job that I do just now."

He said he had discussed his status with colleagues and the "general consensus" was that he was of more use to the organisation as a public figure-head than as a firebomb or arsonist.

The Animal Liberation Front itself does not exist as a properly constituted organisation. Its public face is the ALF Supporters' Group, although such a differentiation may, in real terms, be spurious. ALF-SC has a regular newsletter which is sent out to members (of which it is claimed there are over 2000 with 10%

THE firebomb attack early yesterday morning on the Ross Breeders' Research Laboratory at Newton Village, West Lothian, is the seventh and most recent of a spate of attacks on targets in the central belt and the latest in a rash of similar incidents throughout the country this year.

- December 9 — Firebomb attack on J. Hewitt & Sons leather works in Currie.
- December 8 — Firebomb attack on meat factory at Camelon, near Falkirk.
- December 6 — Attack carried out on Houston Hunt kennels, Renfrewshire.
- December 4 — Firebomb attack on Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Banchory.
- December 2 — Incendiary devices found on lorries at Linlithgow abattoir.
- December 2 — Butcher's shop in Craigmillar, Edinburgh, burned out.
- November 27 — Arson attack on three laboratories at Bush Estate, Penicuik.
- November 26 — Suspicious fire at Lucozade bottling plant in Manchester followed earlier attempt to contaminate Lucozade bottles in

involved in clandestine activities) in which they are kept abreast of direct-action attacks and of the welfare of ALF prisoners.

Subscribers are asked to send donations for prisoners' welfare to a PO box in London.

"We have no money. Activists fund their own actions. The Supporters' Group PO box is used as a point of contact for people who wish to send donations for defence costs and to help prisoners' friends and relatives meet travel costs and so on," says Webb.

Webb says that the three "policies" within which ALF extremists operate are the liberation of animals from suffering, the implementation of economic sabotage of the type currently being carried out in Scotland and the cardinal rule that attacks must not endanger life.

In spite of the very public profile that ALF maintains through Webb, it is viewed very much as a terror organisation by police, security experts and its victims.

Yesterday Professor David

protest at activities of parent company Smith Kline Beecham.

- November 14 — Animal Liberation Front admits thwarted attempt to contaminate Lucozade. Five million bottles cleared from shop shelves.
- November 14 — Nottinghamshire police warned that ALF had planted bombs at three meat company directors' homes.
- July 28 — ALF activists in Manchester area warn of a week of economic sabotage.
- July 10 — Glasgow police investigate suspicious fire in disused shop next to Sauchiehall Street furriers.
- June 1 — Four butchers' shops and a furriers in Edinburgh vandalised with ALF slogans.
- May 3 — ALF claims responsibility for fire at Aintree race-course, home of Grand National.
- April 14 — Animals released from Highland Wildlife Park, Kingussie. ALF claims responsibility.
- January 10 — Mice, doves, rats, rabbits and guinea pig set free from lab at Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston. ALF claims responsibility.

Smith, Principal of Edinburgh University, said that the fire at the university's Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine had caused damage estimated at more than £200,000.

He maintained that the animal experiments said by ALF to have been carried out on the premises did not take place. The attack, he said, had been a "hoiigan form of terrorism".

"The majority of people concerned about work with animals utterly reject terrorism — and it is terrorism," he said.

But Webb is unmoved by condemnation of his organisation's activities. He is an unashamed apologist and polemicist for the front's attacks.

"Arson has been used as a weapon by ALF since 1976 and no-one has ever been harmed. Before any action is undertaken the area is put under surveillance for a considerable length of time to see when shift-workers leave and where the security people will be and that there is no wildlife being endangered or birds nesting.

"Before devices are laid a

check will have been made to ensure that there is nobody on the premises and so far as the fire services are concerned they have their own instructions that they must not place themselves in danger where life is not threatened," says Webb.

ALF's high-minded defence of its activities, however, does not take account of a bombing incident last June when an explosive device was placed under the car of Dr Max Headley, an animal researcher at Bristol University. It exploded and severely injured a 13-month-old child who was passing in his pushchair at the time. The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the attack.

In its original, 1970s, non-militant, guise ALF was known as the Band of Mercy. Its transformation into a fully-fledged terror organisation was celebrated with the publication of its *late the Nineties with the ALF* sabotage and bomb-making manual. Its final, chilling message to activists was: "What are you waiting for? Get into the bastards." The metamorphosis was complete.

Blaze terror at leather plant

THE Animal Liberation Front are suspected of being behind a fire which ripped through a leather factory today.

Fifty firefighters tackled the blaze which broke out before 5am at the Edinburgh tannery.

Robin Webb, a spokesman for the ALF, admitted the premises fitted their criteria for attack.

And he warned: "There could be more to come."

Central Scotland Police are investigating a similar incident at a Falkirk meat processing plant on Saturday.

"I am fairly confident again both these attacks would be ALF actions," said Mr Webb.

"It seems to indicate a fairly active ALF cell in the area."

But Detective Superintendent Norman Henderson said police did not know who was responsible.

"It is speculation at this time but we are keeping an open mind to all avenues."

"This type of criminal is very dangerous. Members of the public should be very careful and keep an eye out for strangers around their property."

Police said this morning's fire had been started deliberately. CID and fire investigators were combing the site for clues.

Fire ripped through the first floor of the two-storey building at J Hewit and Sons Ltd, 370 Lanark Road West, at about 4.45am. It took more than two hours to bring it under control.

Initially, there was a possibility of the blaze spreading to the main five-

Animal extremists suspected of fire



BURNED OUT: Flames tore through the first floor of the leather factory early this morning and took two hours to control.



GEORGE BARLEE: Sickened by the incident.

by JEAN WEST and RAYMOND NOTARANGELO

storey block which had oil on the floor.

Assistant divisional officer Derek Brannan, of Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade, added: "We are treating the fire as suspicious. Investigations are still being carried out."

Hewit managing director George Barlee said: "I am sickened by this incident — it is just an unnecessary mess."

He said he had not been warned of

any possible attack by the ALF and had not believed he would be targeted.

John Robins, of Animal Concern Scotland, condemned the attack and said: "It is my plea for the campaign to stop. If these people have energy to expend they could do it in more profitable and useful ways."

He added: "Lives are in danger. If you set fire to anything lives are at risk. We would not condone this at all."

Today's fire follows a series of blazes at animal research or product centres including an Edinburgh University tropical disease research unit near Roslin and a Linlithgow abattoir.



DECEMBER 1991



Extremists free battery hens in raid

By Neil Morris

AN Animal Liberation raid to free 47 battery chickens from a farm may be the start of a Christmas campaign by extremists.

An Animal Liberation Front spokesman said autonomous cells operating throughout the West were likely to be planning more raids on poultry farms in the run-up to Christmas.

Yesterday a poultry farm in Yatton, near Bristol, was attacked and 47 hens taken as well as property damaged.

Around 100 eggs were damaged in the raid on the battery houses containing around 64,000 hens.

A police spokesman said: "We are investigating what happened and keeping an open mind at this time as to who the culprits could be."

Animal experts last night warned that the battery-reared hens would be likely to die if left out for any length of time.

An ALF spokesman said only the number of hens had been taken that could be cared for by its supporters.

"The hens will now be taken to caring permanent homes, allowed to adapt to the outdoors and live a full life.

"I would imagine that in the period leading up to Christmas a number of cells will try to highlight the poultry trade."

£50,000 animal lib fire

THE Animal Liberation Front yesterday admitted setting fire to two lorries packed with frozen meat in Reading, Berkshire, causing £50,000 damage, and taking 400 hens from a farm near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The group said the attacks were part of its campaign against the food industry.

Meat fire

RSPCA worker and Animal Liberation Front spokesman Robin Webb admitted that animal activists set fire to two lorries packed with frozen meat in Reading, Berkshire causing £50,000 damage.

On Thursday, September 12, local news was dominated by another series of attacks on businesses by the Animal Liberation Front.

In all, eight Bangor businesses, including Boots and leather shop and several butchers, suffered broken windows graffiti or both.

The nature of the attacks led to some speculation that they might have been the work of a copycat group.

JANUARY 1992

ANIMAL GROUP HITS BUTCHERS

by Gayle Sweet

POLICE are hunting animal rights activists who claimed responsibility for three attacks on Harborough butchers shops, in an anonymous 'phone call to The Mail.

The woman, who 'phoned on Monday lunchtime just hours after the early-morning attacks, said: "The three attacks on butchers were not a minor act of violence."

"They were an organised statement on behalf of the Animal Liberation Front."

Bricks were thrown through the windows of the shops around 3am on Monday. Hobbs' Butchers in Coventry Road, J S Bates and Sons on Church Square and Dewhurst in the High Street.

Mr David Hobbs, owner of the Coventry Road shop which suffered the attack at a cost of about £400, said it was the second he had had in a year.

"I'm convinced it's the animal rights people, although I don't think they are local."

"It's the same people that sabotage the hunts. It's nothing I can't put right but it's a menace we have to look at."

"It's all to do with people's freedom of choice. If they want to be vegetarian good luck to them, but people should be able to make their own choice."

A spokesman for Bates' butchers, who did not want to be named, said the damage would cost around £1,000, but would not comment on the Animal Liberation Front.

Inspector Ivan Moody of Harborough police said the crime would be dealt with the same as any other crime.

"It's still a crime whether it's committed by activists or not and it will be dealt with the same as any other."

"If we can get the persons responsible, they will be dealt with in the appropriate manner."

ALF admit raid on varsity labs

THE Animal Liberation Front has admitted breaking into an Oxford University department and snatching lecture notes and invoices.

Members of the group broke into the department of physiology in South Parks Road over the weekend.

They got in by removing panes of glass from a partly-open window.

The documents were discovered missing on Sunday afternoon.

An anonymous ALF member said the papers had been taken as a peaceful protest against experimenting on animals.

A spokesperson for the University said: "We use animals as little as possible but we do use them for training of medical students and the forwarding of medical research."

"The university would never do an experiment using animals if it was not justified."

Det Sgt David Parle, of Oxford CID, said: "The papers are not believed to contain anything of a sensitive nature."

RSPCA expulsion

ANIMAL Liberation Front Press officer Robin Webb has been expelled from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals "for action prejudicial to the interests of the society." Mr Webb said he was considering seeking a judicial review of the move in the High Court.

Hens 'freed' in Animal Lib farm raid

Hundreds of chickens have been taken from a Staffordshire farm by raiders, believed to be Animal Liberation Front activists.

A caller to a local radio station said the birds had been taken away from "squalid and cramped conditions".

Police today confirmed they were investigating damage to hen coops and the theft of poultry from Beechcliffe

Poultry Farm, Beech, near Stone, early yesterday.

Someone claiming to be an Animal Liberation Front spokesman telephoned Radio Stoke.

The caller said more than 400 hens had been freed and taken to a better life, and it was hoped the raid would put the farmer out of business.

The spokesman said an independent cell of the front carried out the raid, releasing the hens from a battery unit.

"All of the hens have gone to homes where they will live out the rest of their lives in conditions far removed from the squalid, cramped and excrement-covered sheds in which they were found," he said.

Staff at the farm have refused to comment.

The ALF raid is the latest in a series in Staffordshire in recent years.

Hundreds of mink were released from a farm at Bednall, near Stafford, about five years ago.

JANUARY 1992

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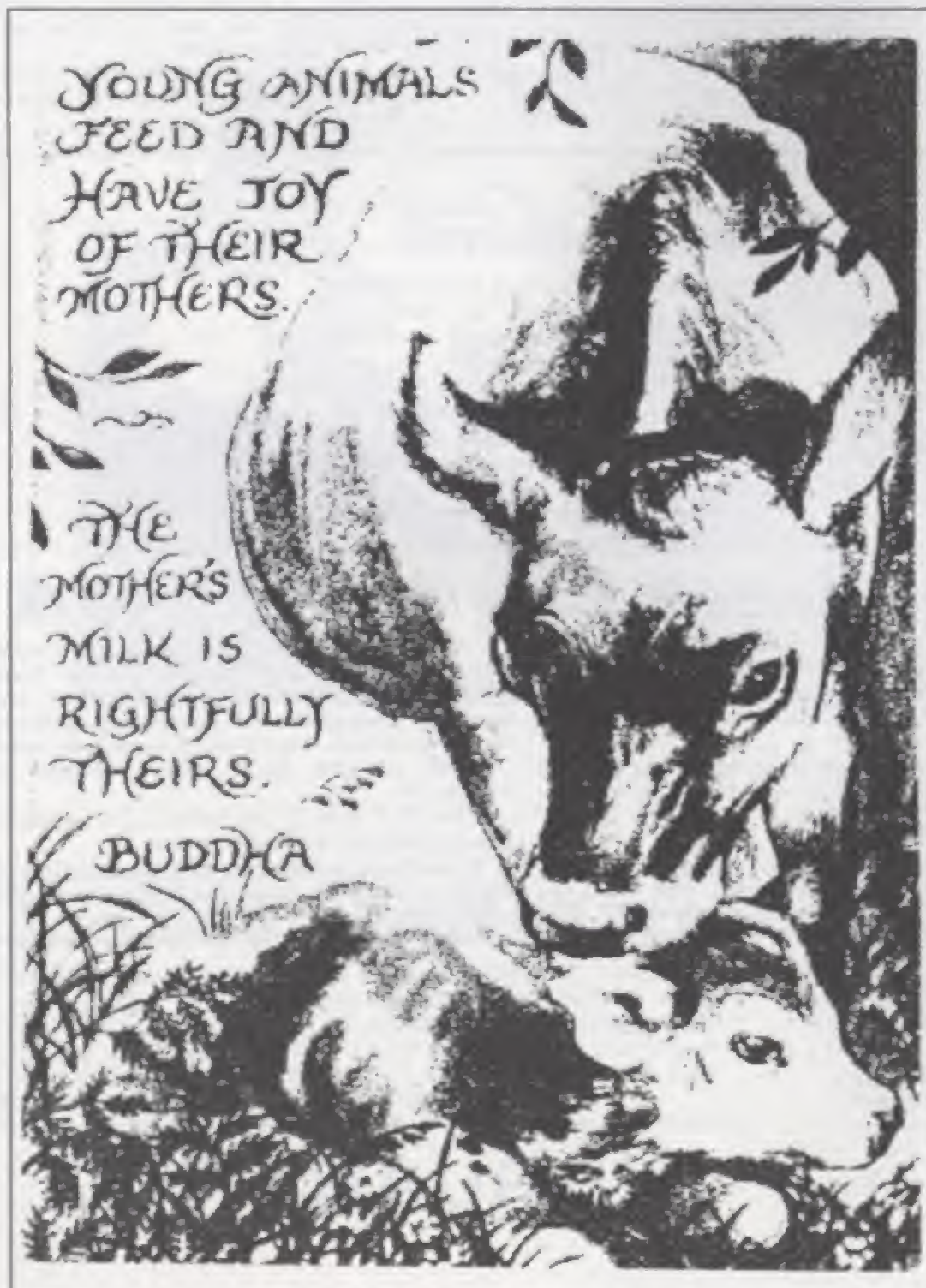
ARKANGEL COMMENT

We were a little short on articles for this issue, so we've printed just about everything we had! If you have something constructive, interesting, thought-provoking, controversial and stimulating to say - please write now!

Remember, it makes it easier for us if you are able to send your articles and letters on a computer disk, but we welcome typed and hand-written material as well - as long as it's legible!

The Compassionate Vegetarian?

by David Lane



I can accept that someone might decide to become a lacto-vegetarian solely for reasons of health. Numerous studies and a great wealth of statistical evidence exists to back-up such a position. I can also sympathise with someone who, by degrees, becomes vegetarian for compassionate reasons. People who take this position regard their abstention from eating flesh as a step in the right direction, and by implication as something less than completely freeing themselves from being a direct cause of animal suffering.

What I cannot accept though, is that someone who claims to be a lacto-vegetarian for compassionate reasons, can be content to remain so. I do not see that it is possible to have knowledge about the dairy and egg industries, and then to think about the issues involved, then to come to the conclusion that to support either is consistent with a compassionate lifestyle. But I will not rely on rhetoric to make my case. Using only basic facts and simple logic I will show that compassionate lacto-vegetarianism is a contradiction in terms!

First some facts about dairy farming. It is a constant source of amazement to me how many people believe that a cow naturally produces an endless stream of milk, and that it is actually a kindness to relieve her of it - otherwise her udder would explode! And of course it would be a shame to waste this almost miraculously nourishing food! But it is for someone else to discuss the value of milk as a food, I want to deal with the process of producing it.

A dairy cow has a natural life expectancy of about twenty years. Those who are not used for veal and who make it to the dairy herd are killed at between four and six years, when poor health or declining yield make her no longer profitable as a food production unit. In order that she produces milk

during her short life, she will be inseminated several times and produce probably four or five calves. She will be pregnant for most of her life. It is a myth that cows have one calf then continue to produce milk indefinitely.

Time for some logic. One cow produces say, four calves. Males are largely unnecessary, and in any case only one calf is required to maintain the dairy herd's size. Three of the four calves are killed at a few weeks for veal, or after several months for beef. There is no escape. No pushing the unpleasant facts aside. If you want milk, then someone will eat cattle.

Let's take the compassionate lacto-vegetarian's aim to its logical conclusion - a Britain where no-one eats meat, but where dairy foods are in demand. We have to export all our unwanted calves to countries where...? Silly, isn't it? And I haven't even mentioned selective breeding and drug treatment which produces cows with udders so huge they can barely walk. Compassion? I don't think so.

And it's no good talking about the solution being

humane slaughter, banning live exports, or generally trying to get people to be nicer to cows! The compassionate lacto-vegetarian has already rejected killing animals in order to satisfy dietary desire.

Now let's look at eggs. Not surprisingly the situation is pretty much the same as for the dairy industry. Birds live only as long as they are productive, whether battery or free-range. When they are past their best, they are killed and used for foods which the lacto-vegetarian wouldn't touch, like chicken soup or chicken pie. I suppose he or she might be willing to pay more for their eggs so that the hens could be sent to rest homes in the country when their working days are done; would that ease the conscience?

And what about the male chicks?

Everyone seems to forget them. No matter how marvellous the free-range existence planned for the girl chicks, if you're a boy chick you won't even get to day two, unless you're headed for the broiler sheds! Can a system which kills half the population for being the wrong sex, and kills the other half when productivity (ie profitability) falls, be compatible with a compassionate lifestyle? And I haven't even mentioned battery farming.

Perhaps the "compassionate lacto-vegetarian" might like to compare him or herself to the "considerate neighbours", who keep their garden neat and tidy by tipping all their rubbish over the fence! Please, if you want to see a world in which animals are not used and abused for human ends, don't stop at vegetarianism, keep moving along...

(David sent his article to The Vegetarian Magazine first, but had no response. We wonder why?)





A Letter from America

by Lee Hall

It seems to me that the animal rights movement in Britain may be clarified, in one perspective, by the influence and inspiration offered to those of us in the United States. No attempt shall be made here to catalogue the various groups, demonstrations, or activities which are evolving here; rather the mood and sense of the times in the United States will be explored.

That's Entertainment

Of course, the United States is a country that loves amusement. Circuses, dolphinariums, dog shows, county fairs, and even such things as alligator wrestling and crab racing appeal to the various interests of the weekend entertainment seeker. Furthermore, adults believe their children will derive educational benefit from seeing a white tiger in a cage or a killer whale in a pool. County fairs cater for children, who all want to raise the biggest pig or sheep. The reward for the winner is empty, however; the animal is bought by a grateful adult for slaughter. It is a strange process wherein a child learns to love a being, then betray it.

Most people would not tolerate this lack of feeling when it comes to their cat or dog. Yet dog racing continues to be popular in this country, especially in the southern states. Since people in Britain are familiar with this activity, the use of steroids, rabbits as "bait", and the throwaway treatment of greyhounds after their useful career ends are not factors that require discussion here.

Even people who "love" dogs indulge in the strangest behaviour. Dogs are mutilated so they can win prizes in shows. They are battered in the hope they might become good protectors. Their vocal cords are cut if the neighbour in the next unit complains (yes, there are veterinarians who will agree to perform this operation). They are bred by pet shops, deprived of their parents' love, and shipped six to a box, across the country, knee-deep in their own diarrhoea. Meanwhile, innumerable puppies and kittens who already exist are "put to sleep" in animal shelters,

ground up in pet food, or sent to research facilities.

The Mystique of the Horse

People in the United States also love horses. In fact, the horse is a sort of a national symbol, like the bald eagle or John Wayne. A horse appeals to the adventurous nature we'd all like to portray. Of the domestic animals, the horse alone kicks, bites, rears, shows the strength to do the opposite of what is desired of it, and often gets away with it all. It may be assumed the horse is not altogether domesticated, and is cherished alternately for its docile nature and its rebellious tendencies.

Wild horses do exist in the U.S., although they are ever endangered. As some kind of distorted attempt to recreate the environment of the wilderness, many sportsmen (and a few sportswomen) have been drawn to western-style rodeos. Although these events can be found throughout the United States, they are most popular in the desert southwest, and semi-tropical Florida, where they are held, typically, in the hottest months of the year. To make sure the bulls and "broncos" are wild enough to please the crowd, artifices like burred groin cinches and electric prods are commonly used. High-speed calf-roping is also part of the event. Injuries, disablement, and painkillers are common; veterinarians are scarce. When the long day is over, the animals are confined until the next show.

But many people, particularly in the northern states and throughout New England (the northeastern states), have a far more civilized view of horseback riding. Foxhunts regularly occur in certain sophisticated circles. People who "ride English", as opposed to those who have never learned to canter or post, are known for their kindness to animals. Yet somehow their horses seem even further removed from their birthright, their natural state of independence, than western horses. Perhaps a truly powerful hunt sabotage group will appear as the next British influence!

More Hunting

Hunting is a way of life (outmoded, but still a way of life!) in the United States. It is a popular activity throughout North America. It is said to have historical value, and is considered educational for (generally male) children. Complicating this issue is the fact that hunting is tied in with "natural rights" in the psyche of this country. The Right to Bear Arms was an emotional slogan during the eighteenth century, during and around the time of the revolution for independence. That legacy was written into our Constitution and rears its head in many ways today, from nuclear weaponry issues to the backwoods. The lobbying power of the National Rifle Association (NRA) is a consequence of this value system. George Bush happens to be a member of this group, which has strong political influence. Group members espouse such concepts as hunting deer with semi-automatic weapons.

For those who prefer a more old-fashioned approach, we have bowhunting. This cervine nightmare is promoted by people such as rock star Ted Nugent, who has a video out on the "sport", and is associated with such phrases as "whack 'em and stack 'em". If the reader is not familiar with Mr Nugent, let it suffice to say that he has been quite influential with pre-teen and teenage rock and rollers.

The Skin Game

Wearing the skins of animals is also a tradition. Biker groups would be gauche if they showed up at the local bar in cotton jackets, and high society demands furs, leather slacks, ostrich purses, and alligator shoes. Fortunately the glamour of all this, for the rich anyway, is being subtly and openly challenged, usually in the form of disapproving looks from the expanding population of environmentalists. It is still big business, nonetheless.

It is good that the leather issue is coming to the forefront in Britain. I'm afraid that we have not made a public issue of leather or wool in the U.S. yet. I would say that is because

some forms of animal abuse are more easily recognised by people, and we are going for the easier successes first.

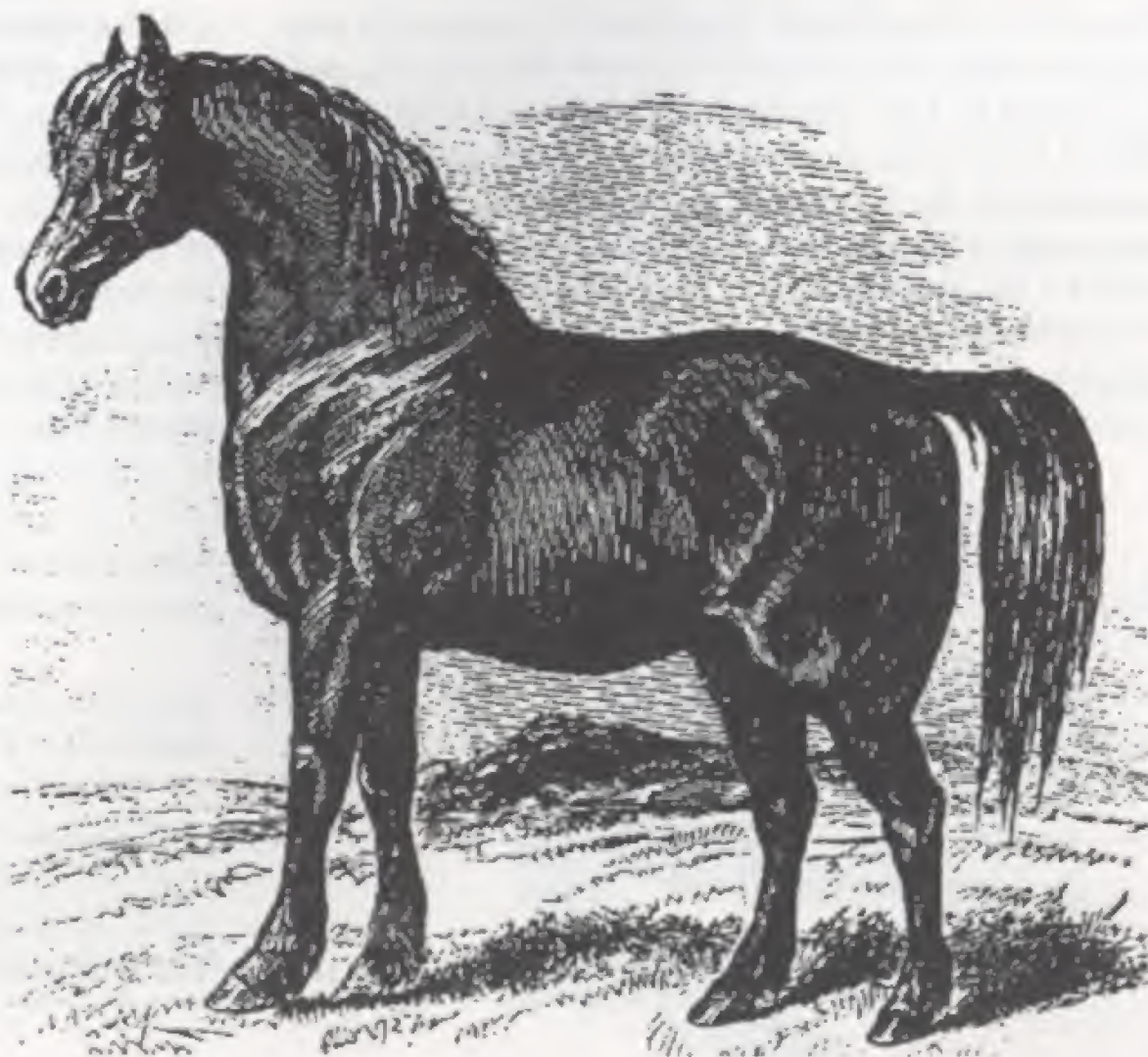
This is natural, but the leather and wool issues are going to need to be addressed sooner or later, and we are ready to hear your thoughts on these subjects.

By-products of Cruelty

Far more insidious is the use of animal-derived substances in nearly every salable product from shampoo to defrosting fluid. Beauty Without Cruelty products have been introduced into the United States, and we do have some North American companies now which eschew animal testing. Unfortunately, the majority of companies refusing to participate in animal testing (eg. Revlon, Freeman) do use urea, lanolin, etc. in many of their products, so we must always read the labels (one good thing: all products sold in the U.S. must be labelled in specific detail).

What's for Dinner?

The people of Britain introduced the term "vegan" to the United States. It is a new term for us, and one not commonly understood. Although our families know what it symbolises, the staff in restaurants normally



do not. We do not find eating establishments with the vegan "V" in the window. We have Tandoori houses, but no Bhel Phoori places. Hindus are relatively rare here, as are vegetarian Buddhists. In the land of steak houses and Ronald McDonald, we are anomalies.

Vegetarianism is understood, and since its practitioners are nearly always health-conscious or Californians, they are tolerated. Remember that smoking is not permitted on our domestic air flights, on any public transport, in most of our airports and public areas (even some restaurants)... our bottled beer carries warnings from the Surgeon General about damage to the foetus... people in jogging suits are clogging city streets... So health reasons, as an excuse for vegetarian habits, are somewhat acceptable. On the other hand, those public service announcements you see on television telling you to "Eat meat" were probably made with inspiration from our own commercial messages ("Beef - Real food for real people", "Milk - It does a Body good", etc., etc.). Methinks the American Dairy Council doth protest too much!

Curiosity Kills the Cat

Animals in experimentation and research have just recently been a concern, and I think this is very much due to the British influence. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) was founded after the success of forces like BUAV, and is chaired by two people, one of British origin, the other a North American. The impetus behind PETA's successes is the Silver Spring monkey case. Twenty years ago, I doubt any attention would have been paid to these monkeys. But little by little our consciousness is being raised. As we live in a large country, it may take a great deal of time before our concerns permeate our social environment.

The Importance of being Public

Music and film stars who have interests in animal welfare are a great help, because they can reach broad populations at once. At first, the importance of animals' lives was an issue for the RSPCA and, more recently, the SPCA in the U.S. Then we began to

hear gentle but clear messages from popular figures like Howard Jones. At this time, quite a few public figures are suddenly ready to discuss animal welfare, from mayoral hopefuls (Dave Clark of Washington DC) to sports coaches (Tony La Russa of the Oakland Athletics). Actors River Phoenix, Rue McClanahan, Elvira, Elizabeth Taylor, Ted Danson of "Cheers", El Vez, the Mexican Elvis impersonator, and many others have been heard making public statements in support of animal rights. Musical stars, such as members of the group "Boston", have written animal rights messages on their album covers. And that's not all. Members of the physicians' population (eg. Dr Neal Barnard of Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine) are speaking out regarding many ethical issues too long in the closet, including animal abuse in research and the health benefits of avoiding meat and dairy products.



Books and films which have inspired us include Peter Singer's "Animal Liberation" and "The Animals Film". However, they are not seen here as frequently as they are in Britain.

We do hold demonstrations and marches. They are surprisingly large. I say surprisingly, because the police and media always under-report the crowd sizes by thousands. On the other hand, actions by groups like the ALF are rare, and usually limited to areas in the state of California. Not surprisingly, the ALF is listed as a terrorist group by our government.

In the United States, especially in non-urban areas, we hope for changes that many in British cities take for granted. But things are changing, and we credit our British colleagues for much of the inspiration behind this.

For information on animal rights groups in the U.S., you are welcome to contact:

Lee Hall, 4302 Russell Avenue, Mount Rainier, MD 20712, U.S.A.

Change of address : The ALIU are now at PO Box No 38, Manchester M60 1NX

To Censor or Not to Censor

by Jim Hepburn

In your last issue you had one article praising your no-censorship policy and another article saying that it merely gave "a platform to fascists". The author of the second article went on to attack Simon Russell's view that the fascists would "damn themselves with their own pens". I have to agree with both views, but I'll agree with the second one first. Fascists have been conning people with their lies and bigotry for a long time, and why should Simon Russell think that suddenly in the pages of Arkangel they should inevitably be seen to be ridiculous (to put it politely)?

But what is the alternative? A nice cosy magazine where you publish only what you agree with? Dead-boring, I should think, and susceptible to the fascism of right-mindedness - being so sure you know the truth that you can't tolerate anyone else's opinions.

There are always problems with no-censorship. You can lose readers, you can be overwhelmed by your enemies, you can lose truth amid lies, you may even end up being less sure what the truth is than you used to be - less sure of your righteousness. Liberty is always risky. But who wants the fascist world where you don't give your enemies a chance to speak? I take Simon Russell's words about the fascists damning themselves to mean that he would rather risk the open fight that liberty requires than turn Arkangel into a magazine of one opinion.

My Guardian this morning has a half-page article in it by Norman Tebbit. Well, what do I want in my daily paper? Think of all the happy, unperplexed people reading the Torygraph, knowing that every word in it is true.

ALF Criticised

by Suzie Barnes

There has been a lot of criticism and condemnation of the ALF recently because of adverse publicity. I have to say that I think it is wrong of people within the Animal Rights Movement to condemn the actions of people who are deeply committed to the cause of the Movement and to ending animal abuse.

Surely we are all working towards the same end regardless of what methods we use, and we should all be in this together. I think that all pressure groups need a section of people within that group who use direct action and, where needed, some forceful action, to show the government/public that we really do mean business and that we really do have a strong case against cruelty to animals.

In my opinion the ALF have not put back our efforts, as some people claim, but in fact have brought the matter out into the open far more quickly than passive campaigning. Campaigning and lobbying of MPs and getting new legislation enforced is also very important, of course, but sometimes direct action can

also be effective and the ALF do not willingly threaten human life whilst carrying out their actions. Their motives are only to put an end to violence by other human beings - don't forget that bloodsports, vivisection, the slaughter of animals for meat are all violent actions - tortures deliberately inflicted on animals.

"If you make peaceful reform impossible - you make violence inevitable". J F Kennedy.

Please be a bit more positive and united out there!



Animal Rights

I have been moved to write to Arkangel about my thoughts on Animal Rights, and in so doing, hope to go some way to explaining to the media the feelings and reasons for the actions sometimes taken by Animal Liberation Groups, and hope you will allow me space to do so.

When animal welfarists witness vulnerable animals being mistreated, they can be overcome with what can only be described as an involuntary rising tide of compassion, revulsion, and anger, and an overwhelming desire to liberate the persecuted from the perpetrator/s. No less than one would wish to liberate a helpless human animal, such as a child, from its persecutors.

Occasionally, physical violence breaks out, when in the eyes of "Joe Public", the welfarists tarnish the Cause, along with their image. It is a great pity.

Were the law adequate, AND enforced, in dealing with the perpetrators, many ordinary law-abiding people would not feel the necessity, rightly or wrongly, to take the law into their own hands in an attempt to see justice done! This also goes for offences unrelated to animal welfare.

The answer lies in the media and "Joe Public" bringing pressure to bear upon those who have been officially appointed guardian "Arkangels" for animal welfare, who must be ever vigilant to animal abuse and who are determined to see abusers brought to justice via the courts. It is also up to "Joe Public" to bring pressure to bear upon governments to act upon and to implement rapidly improved welfare codes and recommendations brought to their notice by animal welfarists. It is up to "Joe Public" to bring pressure to bear upon our church leaders, requiring them to speak up and to speak out in support of animals on welfare grounds. Lastly, "Joe Public" must bring pressure to bear upon the judicial system to impose harsh sentences upon offenders found guilty of animal abuse, to act as a deterrent to future abuse of animals, and at the same time, lessening the possibility of new prosecution cases coming to court for trial.

In passing judgement, one questions whether it is necessary, humane or ethical for sentient animals to be experimented on in order to provide cosmetic products with which to vainly adorn ourselves! Likewise, is it necessary, humane or ethical to intensively farm or trap sentient animals for their fur or skins to vainly adorn ourselves! Is it necessary, humane or ethical to "truck" thousands upon thousands of sentient livestock daily, weekly,

Mrs V. A. Vince

monthly, yearly across continents in extreme discomfort; without food, water, rest, and/or without veterinary attention in order to subject them to a mental and physical holocaust of inhumane proportions in overseas slaughterhouses. Just the tip of the iceberg!

When one feels powerless to halt such atrocities that are known to take place, the one "crumb of comfort" comes from knowing that however painful and traumatic the lead-up to death and in death itself is; with death comes peace, and is in itself, a blessing. A blessing from death, and a blessing from life, where many had been denied even the 'right' to express themselves in the natural manner born to them. Bodily, mentally, physically. This was not meant to be. The sooner livestock animals at present classed as "agricultural products" under the Treaty of Rome are re-classed as "sentient", the better. Public pressure on our EC agricultural partners must be paramount and intensified if we are to realise this aim. Another aim must be to eventually persuade governments and the farming communities that the most humane way to treat and to slaughter animals, is for the animals to be killed nearest to the point of production as possible, doing away altogether with lengthy transportation, and exports and imports of all live food animals.

What right has man to exercise his dominion over animals in the way that he has chosen to do? God "made man in His image" so it is said. God is an all-loving, all-caring Father to all things. Just as the following prayer of Saint Basil, from 'A Vigil for Justice and Peace' suggests;

"The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. Oh God belaye within us the sense of fellowship with all living things; our brothers the animals to whom Thou gavest the Earth as their home in common with us".

"We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the Earth, which should have gone up to Thee in song, has been a groan of travail".

"May we realise that they they live, not for us alone, but for themselves and for Thee, and that they love the sweetness of life".

There are people who, cruel though they are to some creature animals, have adoring, adored domestic pets that they treat kindly. Most, if not all, would be truly horrified and upset if their beloved pet was to suffer the mental and physical traumas and indignities that

sentient livestock who are kept for commercial gain experience! Many throughout their entire lives. Yet livestock, yes livestock, given time and understanding, can and would become as equally loving and loyal as pets known to domesticity!

If only they who condemn others who seek to liberate the persecuted from man the perpetrator would apply these innermost deeply heart-felt feelings to themselves, then they might understand, just a little, the frustration, concerns and motives of animal welfarists who feel obliged to 'take the law into their own hands'.

In an ideal world, the population might become vegetarian or vegan. Animals such as cows could then be kept for their milk alone; sheep for their fleece, pigs and horses for their dung; chickens, ducks and geese for their eggs, and so on. To be put down humanely on site, not on mass, when their days of useful and natural productivity come to an end. Other animals with no apparent use in the commercial sense, would have no need whatsoever to justify their Earthly existence other than to add variety and interest to life.

However, we do not live in an ideal world, and in the meantime woe betide an animal who is born into this world deemed to be of commercial value!

It would do none of us any harm to mull over in our minds the following by Albert Schweitzer; "Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living

things, man will not himself find peace". And from Jack Richards, in the Quaker Green Concern newsletter; "The stark truth demands that we renounce greed, selfishness, envy, wastefulness, and moral dishonesty, and openly declare a New Testimony of Honourable Lifestyle... A testimony of everyday morality really would be a gobstopper. It would mean, among much else, positively renouncing the arrogant assumption that everything in creation exists for human benefit; the gross fatuousness of claiming to 'own' parts of the planet's surface, the amassing of possessions, the puffed-up pride and vanity of our sureness that a baby is a greater miracle than a new-born gorilla or a kitten. We have to love not only one another but the whole of nature..."

Animal welfarists up and down the country and further afield, want only one thing. A deterrent to animal abuse through the courts. Allowing us to get on with our own lives, which after all should be joyful, not sorrowful, much as the lives should be of those with whom we share this planet, the animals, to whom God "gavest the Earth as their home in common with us, and who love the sweetness of life".

"Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement". Hebrews 9:27.

Thank you for listening, and please do try to understand.



Poems

Why do you hurt us
With needles and knives
Inject us with poisons
And record our sad lives
Mutilate our beauty
To better your own
While the abscess with pus
Inside us has grown

Blind me in one eye
Rot out my teeth
Implant me with cancer
You don't feel my grief
Slice me and stitch me
You don't feel the pain
For this reason only
You'll do it again

Our lives mean nothing to you
But your vanity is less
Your decorated faces
Are distorted truths of mess
You live a life of comfort
At the cost of dying friends
All our days of torture
Paid for in your spends

Science is so amazing
Yet it takes an animal
To test out the reaction
Of some harmful chemical
Is there no computer
That will tell us just the same
Instead of pain and slaughter
Why make the walking lame

Exhausted fox keeps running
Somewhere to rest and hide
A man on horseback gallops
Twenty dogs run at his side
They'll chase until it's over
The hounds want blood to taste
The ripped and chewed up
carcass
Is left to rot and waste

Another family member
Won't return home tonight
His mate and children waiting
Hope everything's all right
Tomorrow they'll go searching
He could be trapped or hurt

by Tim Ratcliffe

The youngest cub cries "Father"
At the corpse left in the dirt

Show me where the point was
Of his brutal death
Tell me why he wasn't allowed
To breathe his warm moist
breath
Hunted down and murdered
To please some human whim
The surface of this evil
I'll do more than skim

This cruelty is so sickening
The barbarism must end
Animals' lives are worthy
Respect them as a friend
Everyone do something
Protect their innocence
Stop these heartless killings
Fight in their defence

Hello there
My furry friend
I'm afraid
Your life must end
Your soft fur
Is worth a price
On rich ladies
You'll look nice

We treat you well
A cage your home
No open space
For you to roam
In the wild
So many threats
Feed you, breed you
As our pets

And when we think
The time is right
We'll visit you
Asleep at night
Inject you with
A liquid death
The knife is ready
For your last breath

We'll take your coat
With gloss and shine
Looks good with
Champagne or wine
Fashion and money
Bought out your life
See Mr Famous
With his hairy wife

Creatures all
I hear your pleas
No harm meant
I'm on my knees
I love you
My welcome friends
Mankind's breakage
My love mends

Song for the Animals *by D L Kay*

(To be sung to the tune of "The
Church's One Foundation". Mrs
Kay would like it promoted as a
sort of Animal Rights anthem)

*O let us now defend them
With every breath we take.
O let us now defend them
A better world to make.
They have the right to live here
The same as you and I.
So let us now defend them
Or God will ask you why.*

*O let us now protect them
From those who do not care.
O let us now protect them
The Fox, the rat, the hare.
They have the right to live here
The same as you and me.
So let us now protect them
To live a life that's free.*

*O let us now release them
From lab and hunt and cage.
O let us now release them
From this barbaric age.
They have the right to live here
A right we will defend.
So make men now release them
And let the suffering end.*

Non-Violence and Animal Liberation

by Anon

It seems to me that the struggles for animal liberation and for anarchist social revolution are inextricably connected, but that there exists a more fundamental struggle which embraces and extends beyond these mutually-dependent movements. This more fundamental struggle attempts to dig up the very roots of exploitation rather than merely knocking off the bad fruit, and both its means and its ends are summed up in one word: nonviolence.

Neither the struggle for anarchy nor that for animal liberation are necessarily nonviolent in nature (although, I would argue, they ought to be), and it seems that increasingly, where nonviolence is adopted it is more likely to be as a practical tactic than as a fundamental creed or guiding principle.

While the Animal Liberation Front has a policy that no action should cause harm to life, human or nonhuman, there are certainly people within the movement who privately express the theoretical utility of, for example, assassinating vivisectionists by means of firearms; and although physical violence is usually frowned upon, except where used in self-defence, violence and hatred run riot in the minds of many vegans. Such mental violence can be regularly witnessed on demonstrations, hunt sabs, and in some animal liberation literature. Examples include the use of the word "scum" to refer to those who exploit animals and the burning of effigies of vivisectionists, etc.; this may appear harmless enough, but the philosophy behind such actions is essentially false because it involves a distorted emphasis upon the perpetrators of evil rather than the evil itself. It is also a kind of behaviour which seeks personal exemption from any particle of blame.

If we, as a movement, are to develop an insightful conception of the capitalist system and how it operates we must learn to identify the crucial importance of hierarchical power-relations in our society. Although it is clearly the case that exploitation of animals and the environment lies at the very heart of the capitalist system, to take this fact and then reduce it to an ideological antagonism between animal liberationists and animal exploiters is to drastically oversimplify the complex nature of power.

A similar reductionism is evident in ideologies such as Marxism and radical feminism, the former positing a conflict between bourgeoisie and proletariat, while the latter suggests a dichotomy of interest between men and women resulting in patriarchy. Both frameworks of analysis can provide useful angles from which to address certain social injustices, but meanwhile one ought to keep in mind the notion that, in reality there is no sharp, concrete division between ruling class and working class, or between men per se and women per se; rather it would be more accurate to see society as a complex web of power-relations, with the primary protagonist of power being a certain politico-economic / cultural "system" as opposed to any definite set of individuals.

If we are true to ourselves we will admit that no-one is completely devoid of responsibility for the way our society is constructed. We are all very much part of the system, and we all play an active role, to a greater or lesser extent, in perpetuating that system and the cycle of exploitation which goes along with it. We can, of course, try to extricate ourselves from that cycle by evolving a more compassionate way of living but, while we remain part of life and part of society, we inevitably contribute to suffering. Although it is important to recognize this fact it is equally important not to recoil in pessimistic despair. The point is, as Gandhi said, to realize that while "Life itself involves some kind of violence... we have to choose the path of least violence".

It is commonly acknowledged within the animal liberation movement that it would be hypocritical for someone to condemn others for exploiting animals while still continuing to contribute to that exploitation. So, for example, if a person is eating animal products or wearing leather while trying to sabotage a hunt it may be pointed out to them that there is a direct contradiction in trying to save the life of one type of animal while indulging in the products of animal murder. In my experience, such a suggestion normally takes the form of friendly encouragement, which results in the person giving genuine consideration to the contradiction; whereas if he or she were subjected to ridicule or abuse a mental barrier would immediately be erected which can cause hostility and disillusionment. A similar

situation arises when someone in an animal liberation group expresses sexist, racist or homophobic views. It is (or ought to be) pointed out that, if one objects to exploitation on the grounds of species, why perpetuate prejudice on grounds of sex, ethnicity or sexuality?

Obviously each case is different, but I would hope that the rule of friendly persuasion rather than damning ridicule applies fairly universally as the most effective approach. The problem, I feel, is that this principle is not extended far enough.

It is always wise to maintain a degree of humility and to remember that the vast majority of us ate meat, drank milk and wore leather, etc. at some time in the past. Vegans are rarely born - they evolve. So just as there was a spark in us which led to our developing a more compassionate way of living, there could also be that potential in everyone. There are no truly evil people, only people who haven't yet found the path to enlightenment - probably because they've been significantly corrupted by power. It is a very pessimistic person who labels certain people "meat-eaters", "vivisectionists", "blood-junkies", etc. and refuses to recognize the potential for change. To demonize someone and regard them as "scum" is to radically degrade one's own moral position by implying the impossibility of such "scum" ever ascending to your level. A more ethical and efficacious position to adopt would be to acknowledge our own imperfections, and the extent to which we can improve our own way of living, while also recognizing the potential for change in others.

To regard someone as "scum" is to dehumanize them, and this is the same tactic as governments employ when they wish to inspire support for a genocidal war-effort. Immediately prior to the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein, as a symbol of the Iraqi state, was demonized in the British media and denigrated as a "pig", "monster", etc. It is necessary for the state to resort to dehumanization in order to gain popular consent for their blatant abuses of power. In other words, dehumanization is a prerequisite for violence.

Although, for obvious reasons, animal liberationists tend to replace speciesist terms of abuse such as "pig" or "mad dog" with the somewhat meaningless word "scum", the effect is the same: the target person becomes dehumanized in the verbal abuser's mind so

that we can regard them as inferior to ourselves. They become our "enemy" and therefore something to be destroyed rather than changed.

Verbal abuse is mental pollution, mental hatred, mental violence. It diverts attention from the real "enemy", which does not consist of actual individuals, whether human or nonhuman; and it is ultimately counter-productive, for, as the Italian anarchist Luigi Fabbri has said, "the poorer the argument the more abusive the language".

A temporary release of frustration may be achieved by shouting "scum" at, say, a foxhunter, but the hatred which inspired that outburst will not be defused and the illusory antagonism between individuals will be reinforced.

I hold that the primal struggle underlying all liberation struggles is one against power and domination and ultimately against violence. Thus if we are realistic in our aims for achieving animal liberation, we must set ourselves the task of eliminating violence in all its forms - mental and physical.

By violence I mean any action which is carried out with the conscious intention of causing harm (physical or mental) to a living creature. If, however, the intention is good - e.g., the liberation of animals, the sabotage of property used to exploit animals, or the alleviation of suffering via euthanasia - then the action is essentially nonviolent. Causing accidental injury or death (e.g., unintentionally treading on an insect) also falls into this category, as does self-defence without retribution.

In practice, nonviolence means always questioning the motive behind one's actions. If, for example, one decides to break the windows of shops which are involved in the exploitation and murder of animals (butchers, hamburger bars, Boots the Chemist, book-makers, etc.), then one should be clear that the intention is not to cause mental distress to the owners of those shops, or the people who work in them, but to help animals by making their exploitation far less profitable. In other words, the act of catapulting a butcher's window is not a vindictive act of revenge against the individual butcher, but an act of profound respect and solidarity for the animals who are suffering and those who will potentially suffer as a result of that butcher's shop remaining profitable.

This article was written by a (male) anarcho-pacifist / animal liberationist in December 1991. Any correspondence can be sent to him care of the following address: Polemic, c/o 70 High Street, Leicester, LE1 5YP.

Distress will inevitably be caused to the butcher, but this is a secondary factor and not the intention of the action. The ball-bearing is fired with love, not hatred. Similarly, destroying meat-lorries by fire has nothing to do with a personal grievance against the owners or drivers of those lorries, but is an act designed to damage the profitability of the meat industry.

In short, economic sabotage is nonviolent direct action, but only when it remains non-personal. We are not fighting against people, but against entrenched attitudes and modes of production and exploitation, and this ought to be made as clear as possible as often as possible. Obviously, our intentions will be distorted by the media, who will continue to label us "terrorists". But how can one deny the term "terrorist" when one's intention actually was to induce fear and terror? The answer is to ensure that our intentions are always true to our aims; and the ultimate aim is the elimination of hatred and violence.



'You spoil that lemming.'

Drug-Free for the Animals

by anon. (from the USA)

If you are reading this, you probably do not consume animal products, wear animal skins, or buy animal-tested products - or so you think. It is discouraging to see animal rights activists smoking, drinking, or doing drugs. Cigarettes, commercial beers and wines contain animal products and they are all, including drugs, tested on animals. To be completely cruelty-free, it is necessary to be straight. Here are the reasons why:

First of all, cigarettes have been, and continue to be, tested on animals in cancer research. It is no secret to us that the same tests might be repeated any number of times. It is also not just one company that tests, they all do. To stamp out animal research we must stress preventative measures; to do that, we cannot support tobacco companies. Also, in the manufacture of cigarettes, the tobacco is hung in a warehouse for a certain period. To ensure that it doesn't dry up, a substance is put on it that contains glycerin, and glycerin can come from sugar, petroleum, or animal fat.

Alcoholic beverages are likely to contain slaughterhouse by-products as well. To process beer and wine, manufacturers often use blood, egg white, and/or isinglass from fish. Alcohol is also tested on animals. Pregnant monkeys have been forced to consume huge quantities of alcohol to determine the

deformities it will cause in their offspring. Baby monkeys developed deformed skulls and severe brain injuries. Baboons have been forced to consume alcohol to see if they will develop liver disease. The list of horrors goes on and on. Also, Anheisur Busch sponsors an act at Sea World; Cooks and Miller both sponsor rodeos. Any serious opponent of the abuse of animals in entertainment should at least boycott these three companies.

Drug tests go on despite the fact that rehabilitation centres are underfunded and understaffed. Clinical tests could provide more accurate, applicable results, but the federal government continues to waste money on animal tests. Dogs have their spinal cords cut and are then dosed with P.C.P. During their withdrawal they are subjected to skin burning to test their reaction to pain. Primates, cats, mice, elephants, etc. are forcibly addicted to drugs and undergo cruel, painful tests.

By using drugs, alcohol or cigarettes you are contributing to the epidemic that has caused agony to both human and non-human animals.

Intoxication is NOT rebellion. It is sublimation, debasement, and submission. Be drug-free. If not for yourself, do it for the animals.

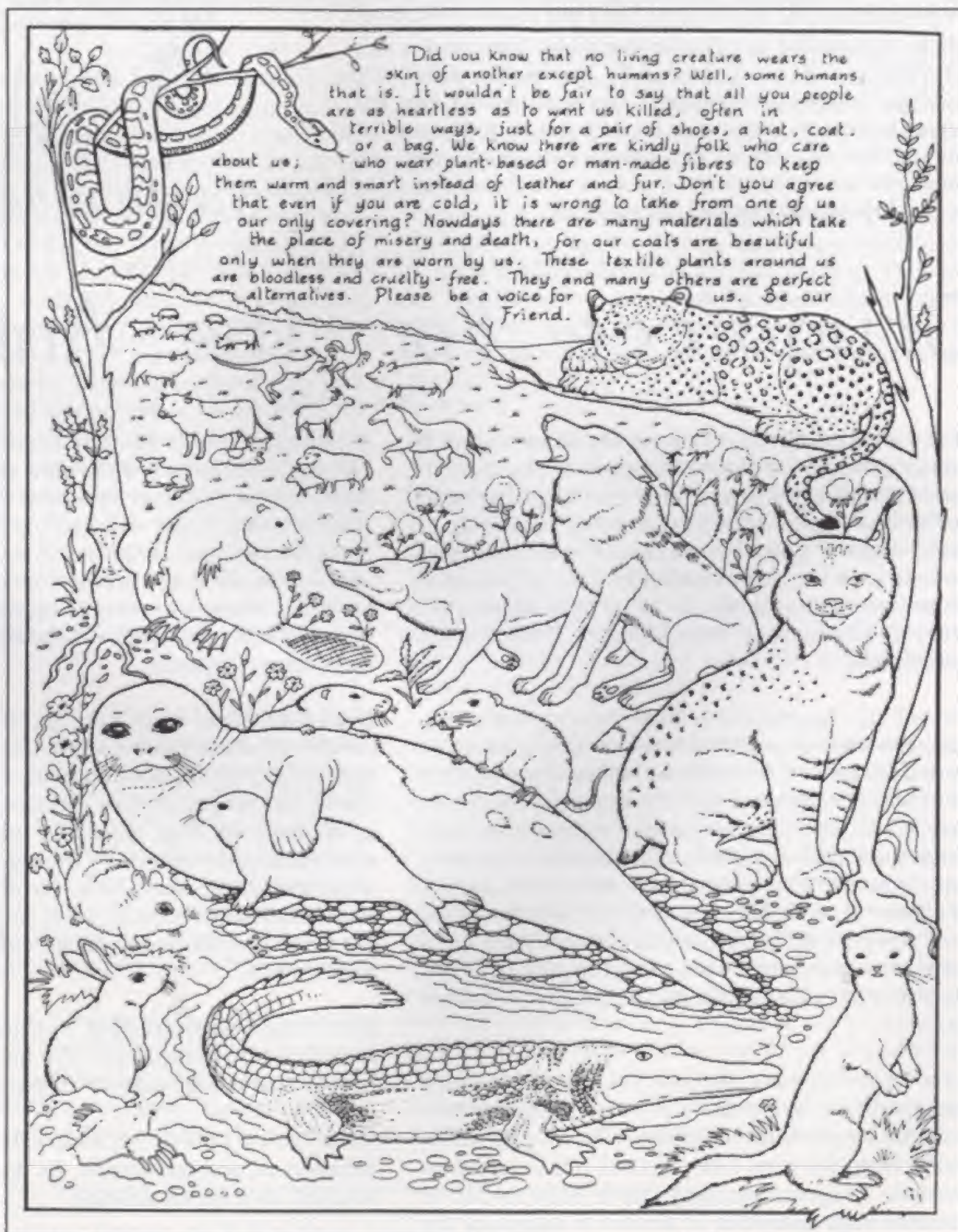
Vegans and the Leather Issue

by David Lane

I remember someone once telling me that the animal rights movement is more concerned with class conflict than with concern for animals. He supported his accusation by pointing to our high-profile campaigns against hunting and shooting, and the wearing of fur coats while we appear to neglect angling and the wearing of leather - activities which are far more widespread, but far more affordable.

Perhaps my friend had read the following piece by Germaine Greer writing in *The Independent Magazine* (13/1/90), "The reasons for the animal liberationists' campaign against fur ... seem on the face of it to have very little to do with animal liberation and a lot to do with class antagonism. No attempt has been made to discredit the wearing of leather, which has increased in Britain during the Eighties, perhaps because a

concerted campaign against leather would bring home to most English people just how much they had to lose if they really espoused animal rights." It is a cynical view and I don't accept that it is true for the vast majority of those who campaign for an end to animal abuse. I prefer to believe that our pre-



Lyn & Maggie

occupation with 'soft' issues has more to do with what appears to be extreme and obvious cruelty, and a natural tendency to engage in more easily won battles.

But what has any of this got to do with vegans - after all, vegans don't wear leather (okay - most of them don't!)? The answer is simple. If most vegans have chosen their way of life because they detest all forms of animal abuse it is they who "really espouse animal rights", and it is they who must bring home to people (not just the English) the obscene cruelty inherent in the production of leather, and it is they who must inform them of the very real practical alternatives which exist.

There can be no doubt that the campaign against leather will be more difficult and face more resistance than any other animal abuse issue. Leather is an incredibly versatile material, virtually everyone uses it, and it is very big business. If that's not enough, its use dates back at least 600,000 years and it has played a significant part in the development of human civilisation! But as Dave Macauley writes in *The Animal's Agenda* (Sept/Oct 88), "However, what has been for centuries a family trade, an art, and a means of survival for indigenous people is now a highly profitable business that depends upon the death of millions of animals each year".

The acceptability of leather, even amongst many in the animal rights movement, is probably due largely to the perpetuation of myths and ignorance surrounding its production. Of course ignorance is bliss - few meat-eaters would care to know the real history of a veal cutlet, and have you ever tried to persuade a vegetarian that there is cruelty involved in the dairy industry?

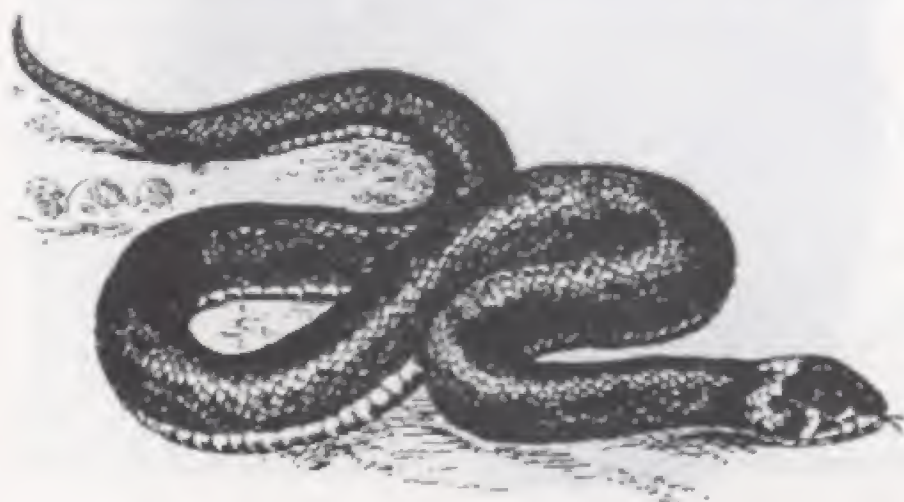
The first myth to dispose of is the "by-product" one, as in, "Whilst people continue to eat meat, it is only respectful to the animal not to waste its skin." This

memorable quote is from Fiona Weightman of Lynx! Forgive me if I state the obvious when I point out that this stance also suggests a moral obligation to use the animal's blood for fertilisers and pet foods, to use its hair for brushes and to stuff furniture, and to use its horns, hooves and bones to put into everything from sweets to soap. The point is that every last part of the animal is sold and used, not out of respect for the animal or to avoid waste, but to make the whole bloody business profitable. The skin alone represents something like 10% of the animal's total value which, it seems to me, makes it pound for pound the most valuable part of the unfortunate creature. I see no difference in principle between buying a pair of leather shoes and buying a piece of steak.



The term "by-product" is misleading. It suggests something which has little consequence in itself and which is only produced incidentally in the making of something else. But, I suggest, even if everybody stopped eating meat tomorrow there would still be a huge demand for leather products, and animals would still be slaughtered in large numbers to provide them - even though the price would rise dramatically.

The second myth has to do with suffering. For many a fur coat will immediately conjure up an image of a blood-soaked baby seal or of a fox suffering in agony in a leg-hold trap; the animal is recognisable and its pain cannot be ignored. The wearer is blatantly indifferent to the suffering they cause. Maybe it's a pity that there is nothing much about a leather coat or a pair of shoes which really resembles an animal. Of course if pressed a user of leather will tell you that it comes from old cows which probably spent contented lives down on the farm. Quite apart from the fact that there is no such thing as an old cow, the leather used to make shoe uppers, jackets, gloves and wallets usually comes from very young animals - chiefly calves. The very best quality leather, the softest and most desirable leather is made from the



skin of an unborn calf. Leather production is intimately bound up with the obscene cruelty of the dairy/veal industry which keeps cows in an almost constant state of pregnancy, takes calves from their mothers soon after birth, and subjects the calves to the most appalling trauma and suffering of transport and confinement just to satisfy a human desire for tender meat and soft leather. The cruelty involved in leather production can be no less severe than that involved in fur production, but the scale is vastly greater.

Although cattle hides provide the source of most leather, the skins of goats, sheep, pigs and deer are also widely used. Speciality leathers are made from alligators, lizards, sharks, snakes, crocodiles, kangaroos, ostriches, and many other species. The kind and severity of abuse and the method of killing the animals who possess these valuable skins varies according to species. In South Africa one abattoir processes 700 ostriches a day, while in many parts of the world crocodiles and alligators are caught with giant hooks or are clubbed to death with hammers. Elsewhere snakes are skinned alive.

I write this article in the hope that vegans will be better prepared to argue the case against leather from both an ethical and a factual standpoint. However, experience has shown that rights and wrongs and the explosion of myths often isn't enough. Many people, even when convinced of the truth of all of the above, refuse to accept that there is any alternative to leather - especially for their feet! The 'vegan from the ankle up' is not uncommon and generally gives two reasons for their position - lack of comfort or practicality, and environmental or ethical concerns for the alternatives.

The first objection is perhaps the hardest to overcome. In many ways it is reminiscent of the difficulties we all faced when we first decided to become vegans, it was neither comfortable nor practical. I hated soya milk, and I didn't like vegetables much either! Now I drink soya milk neat, and I love vegetables (but not sprouts!). The point is that taste is acquired and the body adapts to a change of lifestyle given time. If canvas shoes are impractical in some circumstances there are always synthetic or rubber alternatives to leather. I used to find plastic shoes unbearably sweaty, now I don't - my feet have become accustomed to them.

The second objection, concern for the environment,

seems on the face it to be a valid concern. After all, we all like to do our bit for the environment! However the details can become extremely complicated. If we accept that we must wear something on our feet then we must also accept that there will be consequences for the environment. Certainly natural fibres such as cotton appear to be preferable to either leather or synthetic materials, but in any case most shoes have synthetic soles. We know about the pollution associated with plastic, but is the production of leather, a 'natural' material, pollution-free? No of course not. Tanneries not only stink, they produce some very unpleasant pollutants including lead, zinc, formaldehyde, dyes, and cyanide-based chemicals.

If all else were equal we might conclude that on environmental grounds leather shoes are marginally better than synthetic ones, although the point would be debateable. But things are not equal. They are nowhere near equal. The leather industry depends upon the deaths of hundreds of millions of animals each year, and as vegans that must be our primary concern.

The campaign against leather is probably the most challenging of all vegan / animal rights issues to address, but up until now it has been badly neglected as a campaigning issue.

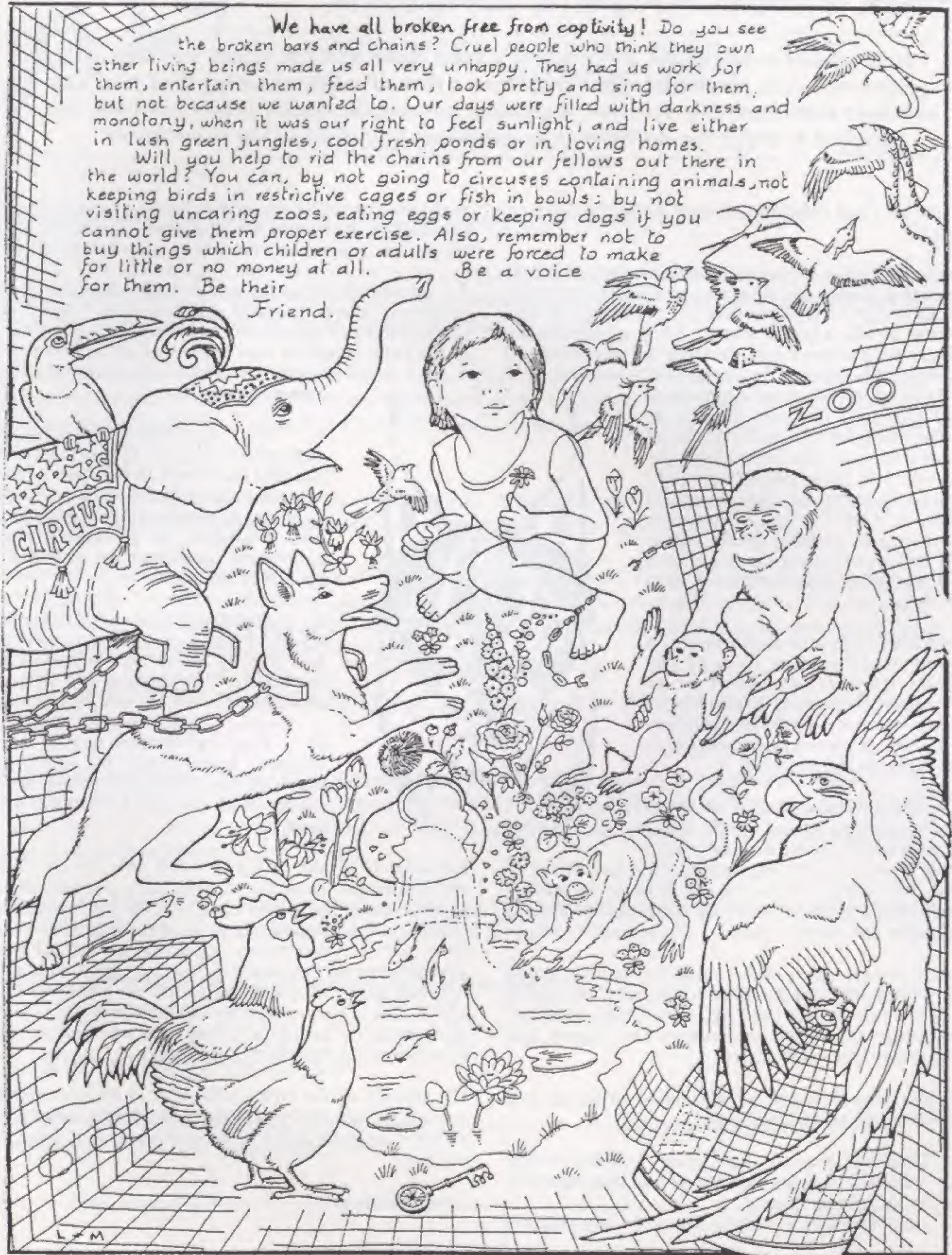
Let's do something about it now!



We have all broken free from captivity! Do you see the broken bars and chains? Cruel people who think they own other living beings made us all very unhappy. They had us work for them, entertain them, feed them, look pretty and sing for them, but not because we wanted to. Our days were filled with darkness and monotony, when it was our right to feel sunlight, and live either in lush green jungles, cool fresh ponds or in loving homes.

Will you help to rid the chains from our fellows out there in the world? You can, by not going to circuses containing animals, not keeping birds in restrictive cages or fish in bowls; by not visiting uncaring zoos, eating eggs or keeping dogs if you cannot give them proper exercise. Also, remember not to buy things which children or adults were forced to make for little or no money at all. Be a voice for them. Be their

Friend.



Letter from Lynx

Reproduced in full below, is the text of a letter dated 13/11/91 which was sent to a person who runs an animal rights shop from a firm of solicitors acting for Lynx. The solicitors confirmed that the letter is genuine, but said the matter is now resolved. The recipient is happy for the letter to be published, but asked us not to comment. . .

We act for Lynx (Helping Abused Animals) Limited ("Lynx").

It has come to our clients' attention that T-Shirts featuring a slogan and reproduced illustration which are our clients' copyright material are being offered for sale at the Animal Rights Shop at the above address in Liverpool and that you are the tenant of this shop. The slogan in question is "It takes up to 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat. But only one to wear it." The illustration features the lower half of a woman who is holding a fur coat which is being pulled along the ground leaving a trail of blood behind it. Lynx use the illustration and slogan on posters, promotional films and promotional literature, and the copyright of such material rests with them.

Our clients have not authorised you or any other person to copy the slogan and illustration or to reproduce them on a T-Shirt or in any way whatsoever. In so doing you are acting in clear contravention of their rights in this material.

Our clients have asked us to stress that the matters raised in this letter are extremely serious and could result in your incurring substantial liabilities to them. We would advise you to seek legal advice immediately if you are in any doubt about how to respond to our clients' claim.

In any event, our clients require you to cease forthwith from copying, advertising and supplying for sale or otherwise dealing in the T-Shirts or any other material which reproduces the slogan and illustration referred to above.

We must hear from you within 7 days of the date of this letter with the following:

- 1. Delivery up to us of all of the T-Shirts or any other material showing the slogan and illustration in your possession or control.*
- 2. Confirmation in writing signed by you that you*

made the reproductions of the illustration and slogan yourself or, if you did not, the name and address of the person or persons from whom you obtained them.

- 3. A written list of the names and addresses of all persons to whom you have supplied such T-Shirts or other material together with the dates and quantities of all such supplies and copies of all invoices or other records relating to such transactions.*

- 4. Your agreement to pay such damages as may be agreed between you and our client in the light of the information disclosed by you in response to numbered paragraphs 2 and 3 above, or in default of agreement such damages as may be agreed by the court.*

- 5. Full disclosure in writing and signed by you as to when, where, how and by whom reproduction of our clients' illustration and slogan took place.*

- 6. Your agreement to pay our clients' legal costs incurred in pursuing your infringements of their rights, such costs to be taxed if not agreed.*

Should you not comply with the foregoing requirements, our clients will take proceedings against you in the High Court for your infringements of their copyright. In those proceedings they will apply for an interlocutory injunction to restrain you from dealing further in the T-Shirts or other material referred to in this letter and for all the relief set out above. Our clients will incur substantial further costs in prosecuting such proceedings and will look to you to recompense them for those costs.

We should again stress that this is an extremely serious matter and repeat that you should seek legal advice immediately if you are unsure how to proceed.

Yours faithfully . . .



ALF

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

PRESS OFFICE 0954 30342 24HRS
0836 310763 MOBILE

BM 4400, London, WC1N 3XX

December 1991

Dear Fellow Campaigner,

I am writing to you and your group as a matter of urgency to ask for help.

You will have been aware over the past few weeks of the vastly increased media coverage gained for Animal Liberation activities. The apparent lull in ALF actions during the preceding four and a half years was merely the result of having no Press Officer as a recognised point of contact.

Previous press officers Ronnie Lee and Robin Lane, together with former Northern press officer Roger Yates, were alleged at their trials to be an integral part of the Supporters Group organisation. This caused immense problems for the SG which exists solely to assist remand or convicted activists in legal ways, eg. with defence costs, etc.

The Press office has therefore been reconstituted as an independent unit, thus protecting the SG from charges of conspiracy and/or incitement. However, this means that the Press Office has no funding.

In one day, 13th November, over £25-worth of 'phone cards were used. The mobile 'phone bill during the first few weeks was over £200. Plus travel, postage, BT telephone and other essential expenses. The amount of media coverage recently obtained surely justifies the outlay - some national societies pay tens of thousands of pounds for far less publicity.

If you think that the new Press Office is filling an important role in an efficient manner can you help with a donation towards running costs?

If you think that the ALF should get across to the public why it does what it does and what its methods and tactics are then please send a donation, large or small, to ALF Press Office, BM 4400, London, WC1N 3XX. Cheques and PO's should be made payable to "ALF Press Office" and crossed. Please send a SAE if you require an acknowledgement or a receipt.

I realise that money is desperately needed in many parts of the animal protection movement but do hope that you will be able to support this appeal both now and in the future. Thank you.

With very best wishes. Yours in the struggle for total liberation,

Robin Webb (Press Officer)

ps. If you would like an ALF spokesperson to address your group or a public meeting please write to or telephone the Press Office to arrange details.

(The above letter was sent to Arkangel by the ALF Press Officer and has been reprinted here on his behalf.)

TELETEXT NEWS

Sun 29 Dec BBC1

Circus boss Gerry Cottle is to appear in court next month charged with possessing cocaine. He was stopped in a routine police check on the M25.

Wed 1 Jan ITV

Princess Michael of Kent is recovering after breaking her nose in a hunting accident, says a report in the Daily Mail.

Sat 25 Jan BBC1

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT CLAIMS TWO ATTACKS

The Animal Liberation Front has said it carried out an incendiary bomb attack on meat lorries at Reading, Berkshire.

Two devices exploded causing £50000 worth of damage. Two further devices which failed to go off outside the meat wholesalers were recovered by police.

The group has also claimed responsibility for releasing more than 400 chickens from a battery farm in North Staffordshire

yesterday morning. A statement said the group hoped it would force the farmer out of business and the chickens had been found homes.

Sun 26 Jan ITV

Eight people were charged with public order offences after animal rights activists staged a noisy demonstration outside a hunt ball in Manchester city centre.

Wed 29 Jan BBC1

CHICKENS Two Manchester men are being questioned about the removal of over 400 chickens from a battery farm near Stone at the weekend. The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility.

Wed 12 Feb BBC1

MEDICINES A report out today says 5000 people die each year, and 10000 hospital beds are taken up each day, because of bad reactions to prescribed medical drugs.

Fri 14 Feb ITV

MPs THROW OUT BID TO BAN HUNTING

A bill to outlaw fox hunting was defeated by just 12 votes. The change in the law, which would also have banned stag and hare hunting, failed by 187 - 175, but sponsor, Labour MP Kevin McNamara, vowed to try again.

There was uproar in the Commons with cries of "shame" and clapping as the result was given to a packed house.

Tory Robert Banks, opposing the Bill, said anti-hunt campaigners might just as well "try to ban Tom and Jerry films for there is nothing more cruel than what you see in those cartoons".

Mon 17 Feb BBC1

Animal Rights activists said they started fires which destroyed four refrigerated lorries in Nottinghamshire early today. It was to mark the anniversary of the death of a hunt saboteur in Cheshire last year.

THE ROAD TO VICTORY



In 1990 production figures for ranched mink fell by 28.6% worldwide (Animals International, Autumn 1991).

Sales of meat alternatives (such as tofu, TVP, Quorn) are soaring as 1 in 3 people eat less meat according to a report by market researchers Mintel. Sales of such meat alternatives have tripled in the last 3 years to £25 million annually (Daily Telegraph, 14-10-91).

Northamptonshire's last zoo, at Guilsborough, is to close after 20 years and the owner is seeking homes for the 400 animals there (Daily Telegraph, 14-10-91).

Guernsey Zoo is closing down (Western Morning News, 16-10-91).

A man who allowed his remote country cottage to be used for a pit bull terrier fight was jailed for 3 months by Harrogate magistrates (Western Morning News, 17-10-91).

EC ministers have decided that a ban on the export of horses and ponies from Britain for slaughter can stay (Western Morning News, 23-10-91).

10% of children between 10 and 15 are vegetarian (Daily Telegraph, 25-10-91).

The government has accepted EC curbs on the use of drift nets and has agreed to a range of conservation measures in the North Sea including nets with larger mesh sides. Fishing for tuna with drift nets is to end altogether at the end of 1993 unless it can be scientifically proved that dolphins

aren't being killed (Daily Telegraph, 30-10-91).

Following a LACS undercover video which revealed cruelty to foxes by hunt members, the Quorn Hunt was banned from hunting over National Trust land in Derby / Leics, the first time the NT has removed a hunting licence. Later, four former joint-masters of the Quorn were barred from fox hunting for periods of between 6 months and 3½ years by the Masters of Foxhounds Association. The four, plus the hunt chairman, had already resigned from the Quorn following the revelations (Daily Telegraph, 2-11-91; Times, 15-11-91).

The cosmetics company L'Oreal, claims to have cut back animal tests on new products from 50% in 1985, to 1% in 1990 (Observer, 10-11-91).

The National Rivers Authority is to spend £35000 on six eel passes at large obstructions on the River Avon, and plans others on the Severn to help eelers complete their journeys up the rivers and so increase their survival rate (Guardian, 11-11-91).

Shares in the Body Shop showed a 36% increase in profits in the first half of 1991 and rose to a new peak at a time when those in most conventional retailers were falling. The business is also growing successfully abroad with 500 foreign retail outlets, and there was a 52% increase in US sales recently (BBC Radio 4 News, 12-11-91; Observer, 17-11-91).

Police are to investigate the Dartmoor Hunt after allegations that it disturbed a badger set while hunting a fox, and officials of the Beaufort Hunt are to be interviewed by police after claims that badger set's entrances were illegally blocked with plastic drums and buckets (Daily Telegraph, 18-11-91; Guardian, 15-11-91).

Gloucestershire County Council has voted to ban foxhunting on most of the 6000 acres it owns. The ban covers 120 of the 150 tenant farms and smallholdings (Daily Telegraph, 19-11-91).

Farmers are to be paid more by the government to protect and improve the countryside, and 12 new environmentally sensitive areas have been declared in England, plus 2 in Northern Ireland (Daily Telegraph, 21-11-91).

Eleven hunt sabs arrested during an anti-bloodsports demo at a county fair have received £22000 in an out-of-court settlement after suing the police (Daily Telegraph, 21-11-91).

The End of the World Fur Centre in Portman Square, London is closing down (Times, 23-11-91).

A Leeds man was jailed for six weeks for stabbing to death a pit bull terrier after it attacked a child (Western Morning News, 23-11-91).

More than 200 ducks at Thirsk, Yorkshire have been saved from "culling" thanks to a petition by children (Western Morning News, 23-11-91).

The number of people holding shotgun certificates fell to 802300 in 1990 from 865100 in 1989 and is at its lowest since 1984 (Times, 25-11-91).

A Gallop poll showed 80% opposition to foxhunting, compared with 67% in 1987, and with 79% wanting to see it banned, including two-thirds of Tory voters (Daily Telegraph, 27-11-91; Guardian, 27-11-91).

The Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, the first grant system specifically for encouraging landowners to look after sites of special scientific interest has been announced by English Nature, the government's conservation advisors (Daily Telegraph, 29-11-91).

A foxhunting ban on council controlled land is being imposed by Erewash Borough Council in Derbyshire (Daily Telegraph, 18-12-91).

A £1000 underpass has been built into a scheme at Tiverton, Devon so toads can cross a busy main road to reach mating grounds (Times, 20-12-91).

Animal welfare charities are reporting an increase in donations despite the recession (Times, 23-12-91).

Loughborough Council banned the Boxing Day civic reception for the Quorn foxhunt

in the market place (Daily Telegraph, 27-12-91).

There was a dramatic decrease in the number of dogs taken in by Battersea Dogs Home over Christmas 1990 (Daily Telegraph, 28-12-91).

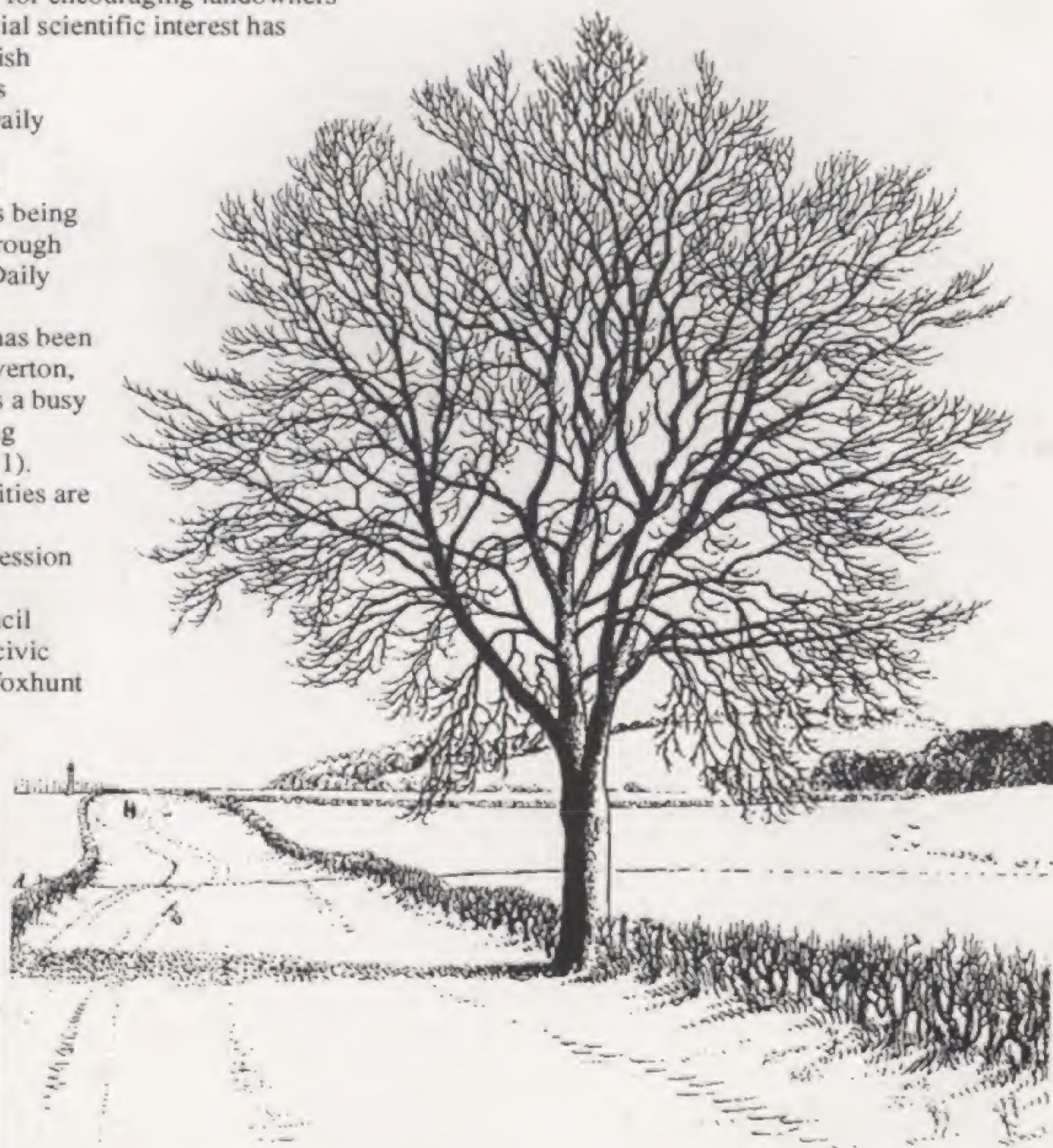
Video films of pit bull terriers fighting were established as obscene under law when a man was convicted of importing them and fined £500 with £500 costs at Southwark Crown Court, London (Daily Telegraph, 7-1-92).

A brewery heiress who gave up foxhunting has left £1 million to the RSPCA (Daily Telegraph, 20-1-92).

The New Forest is to be given national park status (Times, 20-1-92).

Bristol Zoo has stated that it has no plans to keep polar bears in future after two elderly bears were "put to sleep".

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